

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 5, 2021

My mouth will declare the LORD's praise;  
let every living thing bless his holy name forever and ever.

**Psalm 145:21**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 42 (p. 800)

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

My tears have been my food day and night,

**while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"**

These things I remember as I pour out my soul:

**how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God,  
with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.**

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.**

My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan,  
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

**Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept  
over me.**

By day the LORD directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

**I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me?"**

"Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"

**My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is  
your God?"**

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

**Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.**

\* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

## Hymn of Preparation\*

(printed on pg. 12)

### *All Praise to You, Eternal Lord*

All praise to you, eternal Lord, clothed in our human flesh and blood,  
A manger choosing for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours alone.

The skies did once before you bow; a virgin's arms contain you now:  
The angels who in you rejoiced now listen for your infant voice.

A little child, you are our guest, that weary ones in you may rest;  
Forlorn and lowly is your birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

You came to us in darkest night to make us children of the light,  
To make us, in the realms divine, as your own angels round you shine.

All this for us your love has done; by this to you our love is won:  
For this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise. Amen.

## Congregational Confession of Sin

**Leader:** Heavenly Father, we join with your Church around the world, with Christians now in heaven, and with the heavenly host to declare that you are holy, holy, holy; the whole earth is full of your glory!

**All:** As we think about your holiness, we recognize our unworthiness all the more. We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and grant us repentant hearts. Help us to lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and strengthen us to run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at your right hand.

**All:** All praise, honor, glory, and power be to you: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Private Confession of Our Sins

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Colossians 3:12-14

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Deuteronomy 5:6-21; Matthew 22:34-40

Congregational Response

(sung to the tune of “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

### *Song of Zechariah*

Blest be God, the Lord of Israel;  
He has come to set us free!  
And a horn of full salvation  
He has raised from David's seed.  
God has visited his people  
To redeem them as foretold  
In the promise he had spoken  
Thro' his prophets from of old.

God has come in might to save us  
From the hatred of our foes.  
From their cruel hand he frees us,  
And his tender mercy shows  
Mercy promised in his cov'nant  
To our fathers whom he chose.  
He will keep his oath to Abr'am  
To release us from our woes.

God has sworn to grant deliv'rance  
And restore us to our place:  
Serving boldly in his presence,  
Just and holy all our days.  
You, my child, will be his Prophet,  
Called and sent by God Most High.  
You must go before the Lord now  
To prepare his ways aright.

Bring the knowledge of salvation  
To God's people in their sin.  
Preach that God is tenderhearted,  
And by him are sins forgiv'n.  
His great mercy, like the sunrise,  
Brightly shines in deepest night,  
Guiding those who sit in darkness  
To the way of peace and light. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 4.** *What is God?*

**A.** God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

**Q. 5.** *Are there more Gods than one?*

**A.** There is but one only, the living and true God.

**Q. 6.** *How many Persons are there in the Godhead?*

**A.** There are three Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

### Doxology\*

Hymn 731

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### Lord's Prayer\*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

# THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Matthew 4:1-17

Congregational Response

Hymn 198

## *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!  
Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near,  
The Savior of the world is here.

A helper just he comes to thee,  
His chariot is humility,  
His kingly crown is holiness,  
His scepter, pity in distress.

O blest the land, the city blest,  
Where Christ the Ruler is confessed!  
O happy hearts and happy homes  
To whom this King in triumph comes!

Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heav'n's employ,  
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide  
My heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me thy inner presence feel;  
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

So come, my Sovereign, enter in!  
Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,  
Until the glorious crown be won. Amen.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Sermon**

Pastor Ben Muresan

Advent in Isaiah  
“The Savior Will Bring Light to Our Dark World”  
Isaiah 9:1-5

**GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

**Hymn of Thanksgiving\***

Hymn 197

***Comfort, Comfort Ye My People***

Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning ’neath their sorrow’s load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them;  
Tell her that her sins I cover, and her warfare now is over.

Yea, her sins our God will pardon, blotting out each dark misdeed;  
All that well deserved his anger he no more will see or heed.  
She hath suffered many a day, now her griefs have passed away;  
God will change her pining sadness into ever-springing gladness.

For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,  
Bidding all men to repentance, since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way;  
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.

Make ye straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;  
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord now o’er earth is shed abroad;  
And all flesh shall see the token, that his word is never broken. Amen.

## **Benediction\***

### **Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior  
And the Father's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union  
With each other and the Lord,  
And possess, in sweet communion,  
Joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.*

## **Monday, December 6**

Scripture: Hosea 4:1 - 5:15; 2 John 1:1-13; Psalm 125:1-5; Proverbs 29:9-11

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 18

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

## **Tuesday, December 7**

Scripture: Hosea 6:1 - 9:17; 3 John 1:1-15; Psalm 126:1-6; Proverbs 29:12-14

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 54

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

## **Wednesday, December 8**

Scripture: Hosea 10:1 - 14:9; Jude 1:1-25; Psalm 127:1-5; Proverbs 29:15-17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 55

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.  
The churches in Djibouti and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, December 9**

Scripture: Joel 1:1 - 3:21; Revelation 1:1-20; Psalm 128:1-6; Proverbs 29:18

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 56

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

## **Friday, December 10**

Scripture: Amos 1:1 - 3:15; Revelation 2:1-17; Psalm 129:1-8; Proverbs 29:19-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.  
Our pregnant mom.

## **Saturday, December 11**

Scripture: Amos 4:1 - 6:14; Revelation 2:18 - 3:6; Psalm 130:1-8; Proverbs 29:21-22

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

Pray for: The preaching, and for our Sunday School teachers.

## **Sunday, December 12**

Scripture: Amos 7:1 - 9:15; Revelation 3:7-22; Psalm 131:1-3; Proverbs 29:23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

## **MISSIONS CORNER**

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

**Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize**

rcall@mtwsa.org; mcall@mtwsa.org

**Karl & Sun Dahlfred | OMF International in Thailand**

dahlfred@gmail.com

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

ebyuganda@gmail.com

## LORD'S DAY DEVOTION AND QUESTIONS

The spiritual darkness in Isaiah's time was significant. God's people had become like the nations around them, living in sin, idolatry, and covenant unfaithfulness. But instead of allowing his people to perish in their sins, God promised that Christ would come to bring the light of salvation to those who believe in him. We read in the Bible about how Christ fulfilled this promise by his obedient life and atoning death, and how he will return again to forever cast away all darkness and make it on earth as it is in heaven. Until then, we are called as his people to live in his light and to shine his light in this dark world, with the assurance that darkness will not win because Christ has already secured the victory.

1. For review, read last Sunday's sermon text from Isaiah 7:10-14. Why did King Ahaz refuse to ask God for a sign? What sign did God promise anyway, and what is the significance of the name "Immanuel"? How did Christ fulfill this promise?
2. Read Isaiah 9:1-5 and review the Scripture references from the first point of the sermon. What was the spiritual condition of Israel and Judah? What similarities do you see between the spiritual condition of people then and the spiritual condition of people today?
3. In what sense is Christ the "Light of the world" according to John 8:12? How is his light made known to people?
4. Read Matthew 5:14-16. In what sense are each of us called to be the "light of the world" where God has placed us in life? How do you seek to fulfill this calling in your life specifically?
5. In preparation for next Sunday, read Isaiah 9:6-7. What do you think these four names reveal about Christ? Why do you think it is significant that he is connected with "the throne of David" in verse 7?

303

All Praise to You, Eternal Lord

1. All praise to you, e - ter - nal Lord, clothed in our  
 2. The skies did once be - fore you bow; a vir - gin's  
 3. A lit - tle child, you are our guest, that wea - ry  
 4. You came to us in dark - est night to make us  
 5. All this for us your love has done; by this to

hu - man flesh and blood, a man - ger choos - ing  
 arms con - tain you now: the an - gels who in  
 • ones in you may rest; for - lorn and low - ly  
 chil - dren of the light, to make us, in the  
 you our love is won: for this we tune our

for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours a - lone.  
 you re - joiced now lis - ten for your in - fant voice.  
 • is your birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.  
 realms di - vine, as your own an - gels round you shine.  
 cheer - ful lays, and shout our thanks in cease - less praise.

Martin Luther, 1524  
 Tr. in *The Sabbath Hymn Book*, 1858  
 Alt., mod.

CANONBURY L.M.  
 Robert Schumann, 1839  
 Harm. Dale Grotenhuis, 2009  
 © 2009 Dale Grotenhuis