

# Mercy

Presbyterian Church

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### DECEMBER 22, 2024

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When the musical prelude begins, the congregation is invited to spend time preparing their hearts for corporate worship.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

### PSALM 34:2-3

Leader: My soul makes its boast in the LORD! Let the humble hear and be glad!

People: **Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!**

### HYMN OF INVOCATION

### O Come All Ye Faithful

1. O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

#### Chorus

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!"  
Chorus

3. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given:  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
Chorus  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

*John Francis Wade*  
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### PRAYER OF ADORATION

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

## The Heidelberg Catechism #16-17

Question: Why must the mediator be a true and righteous man?

**Answer: God's justice demands that human nature, which has sinned, must pay for sin; but a sinful human could never pay for others.**

Question: Why must the mediator also be true God?

**Answer: So that the mediator, by the power of his divinity, might bear the weight of God's wrath in his humanity and earn for us and restore to us righteousness and life.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

## Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains:

Chorus

Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo!  
Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee,  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Chorus

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Chorus

*Authors: Edward Shippen Barnes / James Chadwick  
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## CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offences against you. You alone know how often we sin in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, Lord God, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done against you. Forgive our sins, and help us to walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

## HYMN OF ASSURANCE

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel;  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of Hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Author: John Mason Neale*  
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## O Come O Come Emmanuel

3. O come, Thou Day-Spring,  
come and cheer,  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of  
night,  
And death's dark shadows put to  
flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, Thou Key of David,  
come,  
And open wide our heavenly  
home;  
Make safe the way that leads on  
high,  
And close the path to misery.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

### SCRIPTURE READING

### Matthew 2:1-12

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

# SERMON “A Ruler from Bethlehem”

- Rev. Bryan Rigg

## SERMON NOTES

Sunday, December 22, 2024 | Bryan Rigg  
“The Savior Is Born” | Matthew 2:1-12

## COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

### HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free.  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation;  
Hope of all the saints Thou art.  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart!

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,  
Dayspring from on high appear.  
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse;  
Of thy birth we long to hear!  
O'er the hills the angels singing  
News, Glad tidings of a birth.  
“Go to him, your praises bringing;  
Christ the Lord has come to earth.”

### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end.  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall.  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all!

4. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring!  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone.  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne!

## HYMN OF RESPONSE

## O Holy Night

1. O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.  
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angels' voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;  
In all our trials born to be our friend.  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Oh praise His name forever,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim  
His power and glory evermore proclaim

*Authors: Adolphe Charles Adam | John S. Dwight | Placide Cappeau*  
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## BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**People: THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## POSTLUDE

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