

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2022

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 67:3-5, 7

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

People: **Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations of the earth.**

Leader: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!

People: **Let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light.
Chorus

2. The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.
Chorus

3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn.
Chorus 2x

Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.

*Authors: words- John W., Jr. Work
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PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN OF AFFIRMATION

O Come All Ye Faithful

Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for Equip for Worship during the last stanza. Visitors' children are welcome. Today's volunteers: Sue Crabtree, Laurie Dowd, Sarah Pettman

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 © Oxford University Press

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 7:1-14

¹ In the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not yet mount an attack against it. ² When the house of David was told, "Syria is in league with Ephraim," the heart of Ahaz and the heart of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

³ And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-jashub your son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Washer's Field. ⁴ And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear, and do not let your heart be faint because of these two smoldering stumps of firebrands, at the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria and the son of Remaliah. ⁵ Because Syria, with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has devised evil against you, saying, ⁶ "Let us go up against Judah and terrify it, and let us conquer it for ourselves, and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," ⁷ thus says the Lord God:

"It shall not stand,
and it shall not come to pass.

⁸ For the head of Syria is Damascus,
and the head of Damascus is Rezin.

And within sixty-five years
Ephraim will be shattered from being a people.

⁹ And the head of Ephraim is Samaria,
and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah.

If you are not firm in faith,
you will not be firm at all."

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." ¹² But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." ¹³ And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

SERMON

"The Same Old Problem and A Better Hope"
- Rev. Bryan Rigg

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

HYMN OF PREPARATION

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

*Authors: Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Rowland
Hugh Prichard
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CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, we know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. May we not be deceived. Forgive us for corrupting talk; for callousness toward lust, impurity, and sensuality. Restrain our return to slavery in various passions and pleasures, from passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. We are weary of our old ways. Save us to the utmost, we pray, through Christ, in whom we are washed, sanctified, and justified by his name and by your Holy Spirit.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

1 Peter 3:18

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.

CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER **Who is This So Weak and Helpless**

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless,
Child of lowly Hebrew maid;
Rudely in a stable shelter,
Coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation
Who this wondrous path has trod;
He is Lord from everlasting,
And to everlasting God.

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,
Walking sadly life's hard way;
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping
Over sin and Satan's sway?
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,
Who above the starry sky
Is for us a place preparing
Where no tear can dim the eye.

3. Who is this? Behold Him shedding
Drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected,
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces
On His church is pouring down;
Who shall smite in holy vengeance
All His foes beneath His throne.

4. Who is this that hangs there dying
While the rude world scoffs and scorns;
Numbered with the malefactors,
Torn with nails and crowned with thorns?
'Tis our God who lives forever
'Mid the shining ones on high,
In the glorious golden city,
Reigning everlastingly.

Authors: Christopher Miner and William Walsham How © 1998 Christopher Miner

What Child is This?

1. What Child is this who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, This is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, Haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and cattle are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant king to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, Raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Raise, Raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Author: William Chatterton Dix
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Yet, Not I, But Through Christ in Me

1. What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer,
There is no more for heaven now to give;
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine!
Yet, not I, but through Christ in me.

2. The night is dark but I am not forsaken,
For by my side, the Savior he will stay;
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
For in my need his power is displayed.
To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me,
Through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won and I shall overcome!
Yet, not I, but through Christ in me.

3. No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven;
The future sure, the price- it has been paid;
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave!
To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing I am free!
Yet, not I, but through Christ in me.

4. With every breath I long to follow Jesus,
For he has said that he will bring me home;
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
All the glory evermore to him!
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat:
“Yet, not I, but through Christ in me.”

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat:
“Yet, not I, but through Christ in me,
Yet, not I, but through Christ in me.”

*Authors: Jonny Robinson / Michael Farren / Rich Thompson
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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

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