



ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 2:28-33

Leader: And [the angel Gabriel] came to [Mary] and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

People: But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.

Leader: And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

People: And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

Leader: He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,

People: and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

HYMN OF EXPECTATION

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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 12:1-9, 15:1-6

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵ And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶ Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷ Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. ⁸ From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the Lord and called upon the name of the Lord. ⁹ And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb. ...

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Westminster Confession of Faith: Ch. 15: Repentance unto Life

15.2 By it, a sinner, out of the sight and sense not only of the danger, but also of the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God; and upon the apprehension of His mercy in Christ to such as are penitent, so grieves for, and hates his sins, as to turn from them all unto God; purposing and endeavoring to walk with Him in all the ways of His commandments.

15.4 As there is no sin so small, but it deserves damnation; so there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those, who truly repent.

15.5 Men ought not to content themselves with a general repentance, but it is every man's duty to endeavor to repent of his particular sins, particularly.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Luke 1:50

And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

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.

*Words: William Walsham How; Arrangement: Christopher Miner
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

SERMON “Celebrating and Rejoicing” - Rev. Tony Myers

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

HYMN OF REJOICING

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

*Authors: Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn
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SENDING HYMN

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.

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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!

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