

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 25, 2016 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 34:2-3

Pastor: 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!

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN OF PRAISE Joy to the World

*1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!*

*Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.*

*2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.*

*4. He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.*

*Authors: Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel
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AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Heidelberg Catechism # 35-36

35. Q. *What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?*

A. *The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus He is also the true seed of David, and like His brothers in every respect, yet without sin.*

36. Q. *What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?*

A. *He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.*

HYMN OF PRAISE God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

*1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray*

Chorus
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*2. From God, our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
Chorus*

*3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might"
Chorus*

*4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind
And went to Bethlehem straight-way the Son of God to find
Chorus 2X*

English carol and melody, 18th century

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Lord, forgive us for thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought. We are blinded by self-love and imagine ourselves better than others. The gifts you bestow, we secretly believe we deserve. The abilities you grant, we act as if are achieved on our own. We pretend to be gods, but you were willing to be born in our likeness. Though we desire to rise above others, you were willing to be lowered into a manger and lifted upon a cross. Forgive us, we pray. And give us the mind of Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

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.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF PREPARATION Silent Night

*1. Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace*

*2. Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born*

*3. Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth*

*Authors: Franz Xaver Gruber / John Freeman Young / Joseph Mohr
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SCRIPTURE READING **Philippians 2:1-11**

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

SERMON “Is Your Mind on Christmas?”
- Rev. Rob Edwards

HYMN OF RESPONSE **The First Noel**

*1. The First Noel, the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!*

*2. Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made Heaven and earth of nought
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!*

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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

Mercy
Presbyterian Church

*“Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
Once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.”
I Peter 2:10*

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