

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 22, 2019 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP      Isaiah 40:9-11,25

Leader: You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid;

People: Say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

Leader: See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him.

People: He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

All: "To whom will you compare me, Or who is my equal?" Says the Holy One.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF ADORATION      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.

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.

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.

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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OLD TESTAMENT READING

Micah 4:1-4, 5:2-5a

<sup>1</sup> In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and peoples will stream to it. <sup>2</sup> Many nations will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. <sup>4</sup> Everyone will sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the Lord Almighty has spoken.

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup> And he will be our peace

HYMN OF PRAISE      May The Peoples Praise You

1. You have called us out of darkest night  
Into Your glorious light  
That we may sing the wonders of  
The risen Christ

2. May our every breath retell the grace  
That broke into our strife  
With boundless love and deepest joy  
With endless life

**Chorus**  
May the peoples praise You  
Let the nations be glad  
All Your blessing comes  
That we may praise  
May praise the Name of Jesus

3. All the earth is Yours and all within  
Each harvest is Your own  
And from Your hand we give to You  
To make Christ known

4. May the seeds of mercy grow in us  
For those who have not heard  
May songs of praise build lives of grace  
To spread Your Word  
Chorus

5. This our holy priv'lege to declare  
Your praises and Your name  
To every nation tribe and tongue  
Your church proclaims  
  
(Bridge)  
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty  
Worthy, worthy is the Lamb who was slain  
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty  
All creation praise Your glorious Name  
Chorus 2X

Authors: David Zimmer | Ed Cash | Keith Getty /  
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Townend Songs

CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, this Sunday before Christmas you remind us that the child born is the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Lord Jesus, we confess how often we lean on our own understanding and are slow to seek your counsel; how frequently we question your mighty, sovereign rule in our lives; how easily we doubt your tender care as Abba Father; how regularly we binge on fear and worry, unable to rest in your peace. For the sake of the Savior come, forgive our unbelief and please enter in to exalt the marvel of your grace over our hearts in newness of life. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON      Luke 2:13-14

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

HYMN OF ASSURANCE      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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."

3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son 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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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

## HYMN OF PREPARATION

### Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

1. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.

2. Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.

3. Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

*Words: Frank Houghton (1894-1972) Music: Quelle Est Cette Odeur Agréable*

## 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

"Advent: A Season of Waiting & Worship"  
- Rev. Keith Peck

## HYMN OF RESPONSE 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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## 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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*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*

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)