

The Lord's Day

January 3, 2021 at 10:30 AM

We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.

As you join us today, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.

Please turn off your cell phone and turn your hearts and minds toward God.

We prepare for worship

Take a moment and meditate on this as you prepare for worship...

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. . . The sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light, but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory.

Isaiah 60:1-3, 19 (ESV)

Prelude

Mrs. Wendy Wickham

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

We praise our great God

Call to Worship

Glory to God in the highest heaven! And on earth peace for those on whom his favor rests. In the tender compassion of our God, the morning sun has risen upon us who lived in darkness. The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us, and we have seen his glory. Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. To us a child is born, to us a son is given. Alleluia! All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Hymn No. 226

As with Gladness Men of Old

Dix

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;

thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Invocation

We embrace Christ our Savior

Psalter Reading (**responsive**)

Psalm 80 (ESV)

- ¹ Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.
- ² **Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us!**
- ³ Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- ⁴ **O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?**
- ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.
- ⁶ **You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves.**
- ⁷ Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!
- ⁸ **You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**
- ⁹ You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
- ¹⁰ **The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.**
- ¹¹ It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.
- ¹² **Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**
- ¹³ The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
- ¹⁴ **Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,**
- ¹⁵ **the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**
- ¹⁶ They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!
- ¹⁷ **But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!**
- ¹⁸ Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!
- ¹⁹ **Restore us, O LORD God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!**

Confession of Faith (**unison**)

Westminster Larger Catechism, Q. 153

What does God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us by reason of the transgression of the law?

That we may escape the wrath and curse of God due to us by reason of the transgression of the law, He requires of us repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ, and the diligent use of the outward means whereby Christ communicates to us the benefits of His mediation.

Assurance of Pardon

Psalm 103:8-12 (ESV)

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions

from us.

Hymn No. 207

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The Prayers of God's People and the Lord's Prayer (**in unison**)

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

The Doxology (Hymnal, pg. 731) and Prayer of Dedication

We hear God speak in Word and Sacrament

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:13-23 (ESV)

¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,
weeping and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

¹⁹ But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹ And he rose and took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he

A congregational meeting is hereby called for February 7, 2021 after the worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to review the Annual Report, to vote to elect Mr. Ken Schumann for a second term as deacon, and to approve Mrs. Debbie DeFord to serve as a deaconess.