

Christmas Day

December 25, 2016

10:30 AM

*We welcome you to worship today. It is a privilege to have you as our guest.
As you enter the sanctuary, begin to worship quietly with personal prayer.
Please turn off your cell phone and turn your thoughts toward God.*

We prepare for worship

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

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord...
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!*

Luke 2:11, 14

Prelude

Gloria Hague, Director of Music

We praise our great God

*Call to Worship (unison)

Almighty God, we bow before you and before your Son, our Savior, Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. We rejoice in the light that he has brought into the world—into our own hearts—and we carry on the song that the angels sang as they announced his birth: “Glory to God in the highest!” But as we lift our voices in praise, we also bow our hearts in confession. It was for our sin that Jesus came. God, the Son, emptied himself of his divine privileges and took upon himself our humanity. He delivered us from the bondage of sin and gave us new hope. It is God with us—Emmanuel—who makes us what he would have us to be. The joyous announcement that we now bring to the world is that proclamation that God and sinners have been reconciled; the Prince of Peace has come! We lift our hearts! We lift up our voices! We rejoice because Jesus is our Lord and King! Amen.

*Hymn No. 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:

Saints below the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:

*Invocation

Hymn No. 223

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Handel

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

“Fear not,” said he — for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind —
“glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind.

“To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:

“The heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song, addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace:
good will henceforth, from heav'n to men, begin and never cease, begin and never cease!”

We embrace Christ our Savior

Prayer of Confession (unison)

The Book of Common Prayer

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn No. 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

French melody

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King.

*Hymn No. 207

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

German melody

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!

A Story of Christmas

Mary's Treasure Box

Kramlich/Porter

Aisquith Life and Opportunities

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

We respond in gratitude for God's blessing

Prayer of Dedication

God's Tithes and Our Offerings

The Offertory

We hear God speak

*Hymn No. 199 (vv. 1, 2)

See, amid the Winter's Snow

Goss

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.***

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies:
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-14

(Pew Bible pg. 750)

The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Meditation

"In Our Place"

Pastor Bell

We respond to God's grace

*Hymn (insert)

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Puer Nobis

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry announces that the Lord is nigh.
Awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin: make straight the way for God within,
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward.
Without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, ever more.

*Benediction and Three-Fold *Amen* (Hymnal, pg. 740)

Danish

Postlude
