

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 24, 2020**

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Connor Licairac, Harp; Darin Jellison, Tenor, Guitar; Dennis Duda, Organ

A PRAYER OF PREPARATION

God of incarnate hope, you blessed the world in ways as yet unfathomed in your coming in Christ Jesus our Lord. Come into this time and place. Be incarnate among those gather here. Bless us as we gather in celebration of the birth of your Son, this evening. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION – John 1:1 – 14

OPENING CAROL: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLE
THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Relighting the Candles of Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy

Introductory Sentences

Scriptures:

Isaiah 9:6

Luke 2:10, 14

Romans 5:5

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Unison: We thank you God, for your gift of Jesus Christ to the entire world. We thank you that Christ's coming makes hope, love, peace, and joy possible for every person in every nation. Encourage us to do our part to bring goodwill and peace to our families, our churches, our neighborhoods, and the world. Now let your Spirit put us in

touch with you, the living God, through the words and music we hear tonight. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen

THE STORY

REFLECTIONS ON THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1 – 21

CAROL: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

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, Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?

Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo

See the babe in manger laid whom the choirs of angels praise;

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo, Gloria, in excelsis Deo

Isaiah 9:1 – 8

CAROL: LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!

Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.

It came a floweret bring, amid the cold of Winter,

when half spent was the night.

Isaiah had foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,

With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind

To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,

when half spent was the night.

Matthew 1:18 – 23

CAROL: SING A DIFFERENT SONG

Sing a different song now Christmas is here, sing a song of people knowing

God's near: The Messiah is born in the face of our scorn, sing a different

song to welcome and warn.

Love a different love now Christmas is here, love without condition, love

without fear: With the humble and poor, with the shy and unsure, love a

different love. Let Christ be the cure!

THE HOMILY: *Fuhgeddaboutit*

Isaiah 43:15 – 21

THE FELLOWSHIP OF SHARING

SPECIAL MUSIC: *WELCOME TO OUR WORLD* – *Chris Rice* *Darin Jellison*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

God of goodness and kindness, whose mercy is from everlasting to everlasting, all that we have are gifts of your grace. As the heavenly host sang of your glory, accept what we bring as offerings of praise. With the shepherds we have witnessed the birth of our Savior; our response is gratitude for the hope of new life we receive in Christ Jesus. Amen.

THE SERVING OF COMMUNION

SCRIPTURE READING: I Corinthians 11:27 – 28

Prayer

Pastor: Holy One, we are thankful for your salvation, and we are thankful for the promise of your scripture that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; therefore, we take a moment to allow your Holy Spirit to help us examine our lives. We ask for your forgiveness for our actions which distances us from you and we repent with a heart to live our lives according to your purposes and plan. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: I Corinthians 11:23 – 26

Prayer of Consecration

Pastor: We ask God's blessing upon the elements of communion, the bread from the earth that becomes Christ's body, the bread of heaven and the cup of blessing that becomes the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. We give thanks for this bread and this wine.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:

We believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh.

We believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time.

We believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices; from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season.

We believe in the angel's message that we should not be afraid - that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities.

We believe in prayer and quietness as a way of appropriating Christmas - that if we wait in silence, we will experience the presence of the one born in the manger, for he lives today as surely as he lived then.

We believe in going away from Christmas as the wise men went: "another way." We want to be different when these days are past - more centered, more thoughtful, more caring.

And we believe that God will help us. Amen

The breaking and sharing of bread

Pastor: Let's take the bread in our hand. This bread represents the body of Christ, broken for us, let us partake of this bread together as we remember Christ's love for us.

The pouring and sharing of the cup

Pastor: Let's now take the juice, representing the blood of Christ. This cup is the new covenant, the fulfillment of the promises of God, we take this cup together as we remember your sacrifice and your blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Prayer of Remembrance

Pastor: God, thank you for sending your son, Jesus, that our sins could be forgiven, that we could know you, and that we could spend eternity in your Presence. We look forward to that day, when we will partake of this communion around your table with Jesus.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

CAROL: *SILENT NIGHT*

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**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.**

CAROL: *ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY*

**Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her
baby In a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her
little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And his
shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and
lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love; For that
child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children
on To the place where he has gone.**

CAROL: *ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY*

**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:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the new-born King.
Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him; Every knee shall then bow down:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the new-born King.
All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Ever more your voices raising, To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

CLOSING LITANY

Pastor: Go forth with singing, for you have a song to share. You have been moved by an old story to new life.

Unison: **We have been re-born in our commitments and strengthened in our resolve to live godly lives.**

Pastor: Be filled with hope, and with zeal for good deeds. Praise God for all you have heard and seen.

Unison: **We will not fear before good news of great joy, but will embrace the signs of wonders God reveals.**

Pastor: The good news of peace with justice is for you and for all humankind. Rejoice!

Unison: **To us a child is born who makes everything different. To us a Savior has come who makes all things new.**

Pastor: Amen.

Unison: Amen.

CLOSING CAROL: *HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING*

**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 angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ, by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord! Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity, Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Hail the heav'n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, Risen 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!"

BENEDICTION

MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

*Special thanks to Connor Licairac and Darin Jellison
for sharing their gifts of music with us as well as filming the service.
We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy and Healthy New Year!*