

Welcome to Worship

Sharing life in Christ with each other and our neighbors

December 26, 2021

Prelude

Good Christian Friends Rejoice (#98)

Good Christian friends rejoice
With heart and soul and voice
Give ye heed to what we say
Jesus Christ is born today
Ox and ass before Him bow
And He is in the manger now
Christ is born today
Christ is born today

Good Christian friends
rejoice With heart and soul
and voice Now ye hear of
endless bliss Jesus Christ
was born for this He has
opened heaven's door And
we are blest forevermore
Christ was born for this
Christ was born for this

Good Christians all 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

John Mason Neale | Wen Reagan © Words: Public Domain Music: In Dulci Jubilo: German, 14th Century, PD

Welcome & Announcements

Focus

Our worship this morning focuses on us as God's people, pointing to Jesus as we live in this wilderness of materialism, rabid individualism and pleasure at any cost.

Confession

(Reading Together)

God, we are your people and yet too often we follow the ways of the world. Like the world, we love material things, we are enslaved to individualism, we seek pleasure at any cost. There is little room left in our lives for you. Forgive us, walk with us, and sustain us in this wilderness. Open our lives to you and your ways of compassion and justice.

Assurance of Pardon Household of God,

Our Lord Jesus has compassion on us. He has crushed our iniquities under foot; he has buried them in the depths of the sea.

Thanks be to God!

We Greet Each Other

Scripture Reading: John 1:19-34

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#81)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Though an Infant now we view Him, He will share 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 newborn King.

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery © Words: Public Domain Music: Public Domain

The First Noel

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

They looked up and saw a star Shining in the east beyond them far: And
to the earth it gave great light And so it continued both day and night
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Then entered in those wise men three Full reverently upon their knee
And offered there in his presence Their gold and myrrh and frankincense
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the kind of Israel

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
That hath made heaven and earth of naught And with his blood mankind
has bought Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel
Old English Carol, Traditional Melody PD

I Cannot Tell

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship
should set His love upon the sons of men,
Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers
to bring them back, they know not how or when.
But this I know, that He was born of Mary
when Bethlehem's manger was His only home,
and that He lived at Nazareth and labored,
And so, the Savior, Savior of the world, is come.

I cannot tell how silently He suffered as with His peace He graced this place of tears, or how His heart upon the cross was broken, the crown of pain to three and thirty years. But this I know, He heals the broken hearted and stays our sin and calms our lurking fear, And lifts the burden from the heavy laden, for yet the Savior, Savior of the world, is here.

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Children's Song:

Hope Hope Hope (tune Still, Still, Still)

Hope, hope, hope -
The light of Christ is hope.
In all our darkness Christ is shining,
Leading upward, faith refining.
Hope, hope, hope -
The light of Christ is hope.

Joy, joy, joy -
We praise You, Christ, with joy!
Our peace, our hope, our love and treasure,
Highest calling, deepest pleasure!
Joy, joy, joy -
We praise You, Christ, with joy!

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Presenting Our Gifts to God

Congregational Prayer

Message: "The Voice of one Crying out in the Wilderness"
Pastor Brian

The Lord's Supper

Litany:

Pastor: In the Lord's Supper, Christ offers his own crucified body and shed blood to his people, assuring them a share in his death and resurrection. By the Holy Spirit, he feeds us with his resurrection life and binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.

People: We receive this food gladly, believing, as we eat, that Jesus is our life-giving food and drink and that he will come again to call us to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Parting Blessing

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old, from
angels bending near the earth to
touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to
men, from heaven's all-gracious
King." The world in solemn
stillness lay, to hear the angels
sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when the new heaven and earth shall own
The prince of Peace their King,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

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Postlude With Opportunity for Intercessory Prayer