

Welcome to Worship

Sharing life in Christ with each other and our neighbors

December 20, 2020

O Come All Ye Faithful (#76)

1 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!

2 God of God, Light of Light eternal,

lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

3 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!

4 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!

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.

Music: attr. John F. Wade, 1743 P.D.

Welcome & Announcements

Focus

Jesus did not arrive on the stage of history unannounced. In fact Luke in his gospel proclaims Jesus as the one announced by prophets to be the savior of Israel, indeed the savior of the whole world. Despite the suffering and death that are all around us we also proclaim that Jesus is the savior who brings comfort and peace.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Today we light the fourth candle of advent, the candle of peace.

Zechariah the prophet bore witness to Christ, saying, "the rising sun will come to us from heaven to shine on those living in darkness, to guide our feet into the path of peace."

Special Music

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Confession

(Reading Together)

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you
and for ignoring your immensity and greatness.

Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives.

Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power
and squandering your gifts.

We confess, O triune God, that we are blind to your glory, seeing only our own difficulties in life.

We are fearful and blind to your work in the world.

Calm our fear O God and enable us to see you at work
even now in this time of great trouble.

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, be encouraged by
these words of Peter the apostle,

"All the prophets testify about Christ
that everyone who believes in him
receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

We Greet Each Other

(Reading Together)

This morning we worship at home or together at church, but either way, we worship as one body in Jesus.

We take our cares to God together, knowing that we do not face today's challenges alone.

Our prayers are with you all and we thank God for your care for us.

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2:44-45 and 7:9-16; Luke 24:44

Once in Royal David's City (#87)

1 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.

2 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 meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

4 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.

5 Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Words: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, P.D.

Music: P.D. Enter Copyright info

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (#80)

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 the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven 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 us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3 Hail the heaven-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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt., P.D.

Music: P.D.

Angels from the Realms of Glory (#81)

1 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!

2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King!
4 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!
5 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!

Words: James Montgomery, 1816, alt., P.D.

Music: P.D.

Children's Message

Silent night! Holy night!

1 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.

2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!"

3 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!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818; tr. John F. Young, 1863, P.D.

Music: P.D.

Congregational Prayer

Message: "Who is this Child Born in Bethlehem?"

~Clair Vander Neut

What Child Is This? (#95)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,

whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!
2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail for Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!
3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.
Words: William C. Dix (1837-1898), P.D
Music: P.D.

Parting Blessing

O Little Town of Bethlehem (#88) vv 1 and 2

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2 For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), P.D
Music: P.D.