

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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The Reverend David L. Ledford III, Pastor

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Priscilla Cunningham, Director of Music and Organist
Bob Coulon, Praise Team Director

Happy New Year!

January 1, 2023

Today's Lay Reader: Eric Conklin

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Whoever you are, wherever you are, come!

People: We come, ready to keep moving forward in our faith.

Leader: Christmas has come and gone yet again. We may usually go right back to normal life. But life would never be normal again for Mary and Joseph.

People: What happened next? How did the world begin to experience Emmanuel...God With Us?

Prelude

There's a Song in the Air

arr. Ted Smith

Hymn

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

1. O God, our help in a - ges past,
 2. Un - der the shad - ow of thy throne,
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood,
 4. A thou - sand a - ges, in thy sight,

our hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 still may we dwell se - cure; suf - fi - cient is thine
 or earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing,
 are like an eve - ning gone; short as the watch that

storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home!
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night, be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, it's still Christmas in the Church. Our celebration of Christ's birth continues. Christmas isn't about one person born, born one day in one small town. Christmas is about how you entered into the world to change it forever. We pray that our celebration of Christmas will never end, because your presence on Earth through Christ will never end. In the days, weeks and months after Christ's birth, you were still working; still writing the Christmas story. Help us continue that story today. Amen!

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

***Chorus** Jesus, Name Above All Names *(sing twice)*

Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, living Word.

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev

Scripture Lesson Luke 2:21-35

When the eighth day came, it was time to circumcise the child,[a] and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God
People: **Thanks be to God**

Message What’s Next?

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

Offertory The Birthday of a King arr. Smith and Hustad

***Offertory Hymn** Emmanuel, Emmanuel (sing twice)

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, His name is called Emmanuel.

Hymn Here I Am, Lord

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Here I Am, Lord'. It consists of two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment line in the same key and time, starting with a bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with three verses. The first verse is: '1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry. I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.' The second verse is: '2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple’s pain. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a- lone.' The third verse is: '3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.'

1.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
 Who will bear my light to them?
 I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
 I will speak my word to them.
 I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
 I will give my life to them.

2. *Refrain (Harmony)*

Whom shall I send?
 Whom shall I send?
 Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord.

Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Benediction

Postlude

The First Noel

arr. Gail Leven Pollock

Organ: Priscilla Cunningham

Piano: Bob Coulon

Our regular worship schedule resumes next Sunday, January 8, with worship at 9 and 11, and Sunday School at 9:45. Next Sunday is also Communion Sunday!

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