

ETERNAL HOPE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

THE DESIRE & DREAD OF CHRISTMAS

MATTHEW 2:1-12



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, December 13, 2020

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.

SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

A Baby Will Come

EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME

CALL TO WORSHIP | Isaiah 65:17-19, 25 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ... The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Isaiah 53:4-6, 12 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. ... Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Behold The Lamb Of God

PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Worthy Of Your Name

Great Are You Lord

CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 51. Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension?

A. Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as he came down to earth physically on our account, and he is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us his Spirit.

KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Grade) | 9a Service

KIDS' WORSHIP DISMISSAL (Infants - 4 Years) | 10:45a Service

Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

The Lion And The Lamb

BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,
both now and forevermore. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

Proclamation of God's Word

Text: Matthew 2:1-12 (ESV)

Title: Eternal Hope In The Midst of War: The Desire & Dread of Christmas

Teacher: Tim Rice

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Intro: What is revealed by whatever we seek?

THE COMING CONFLICT

How is Jesus' arrival divisive?

POTENTIAL AFFLICTION

How does loyalty to Jesus pull us toward suffering?

GOD'S SURE GUARANTEE

What can we count on regarding anyone seeking to dethrone Jesus?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His wisdom and faithfulness. Praise God for His plan to save us through such a stunning reversal of expectations, and His trustworthiness that He kept His word.
2. How have you busied your life with building your own kingdom and neglected Jesus, the true King? *Confess to Jesus your willful neglect, and ask Him to have mercy on you and change your heart to truly hunger after Him as most worthy.*
3. Ask the Holy Spirit to grow you in your insight into Jesus as the promised Savior (Messiah) and the good news of His coming. Pray for understanding so that you would also grow in your love for Him.
4. Who do you know that is indifferent to Jesus and His kingdom? Pray for them asking the Father to help them even as He sent something brilliant and stunning into view for the wise men.
5. Read again Isaiah 53:4-6, 12. Ask the Holy Spirit to bear in you His fruit of love and faithfulness to Jesus, the True King. Pray that He would grow you in your understanding of God's power and wisdom and how His purposes are not undone by suffering, but rather accomplished through it.

