

THE
HUMBLE
PLACE:
BETHLEHEM

MATTHEW 2:1-13

ADVENT



TRINITY
Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, December 18, 2022

Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.

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

CELEBRATING THE SEASON - 2022

The earth holds its breath, waiting. Advent is a season of longing. It is a yearly representation in our church calendar of the eons spanning from the moment Eve took the first bite of the fruit until that starry night when Heaven touched earth and Christ incarnated, becoming God-man. Fully human. Fully God. Advent culminates in the arrival of Jesus—Messiah, born in the flesh to the last people on earth who anyone would have chosen to parent a king!

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.

At The Foot Of The Cross

EXPLANATION OF ADVENT THEME | Kingdom

CALL TO WORSHIP | Revelation 19:11-16 (ESV)

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

Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

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.

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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.

Man Of Sorrows

How Great Is Your Love

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)

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

GREETING

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.

SONG OF RESPONSE

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

Graves Into Gardens

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 2:1-13 (ESV)

Title: The Humble Place: Bethlehem

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. ¹³ Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Intro: Whatever we seek (*or fail to seek*) reveals much about us ...

THE HUMBLE PLACE

What can we learn by the contrast of those who seek Jesus?

THE DEATH OF ARROGANCE

What is God's guarantee vs. evil?

THE HUMBLE PATH

What should we expect following our leader?

YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD, God Almighty for His wisdom and goodness. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His plan to save us through such a stunning plan of suffering and yet victory over evil.
2. How have you sought to build your own kingdom and neglected Jesus, the true King? Confess to Jesus your rebellion, asking Him to forgive you and have mercy to change your heart to truly love Him.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for His work to save us, even as He was required to suffer. Thank Him for atoning for our guilt by His death, and being raised to conquer all evil, even death and hell.
4. Who do you know that is indifferent to Jesus and His kingdom? Pray for them asking the Lord 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. Pray that He would grow your confidence that He is not undone by suffering, but rather accomplished our redemption through it.

