

ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2020

Prelude: Singing of Christmas Carols

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The People's Representative: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: #83 "O come, all ye faithful" (verses 1-3)

- 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 from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only begotten Son of the Father; 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, 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.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

The People's Representative: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray . . .

First Lesson from Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7 (*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.*) (Read by Jim Matthews)

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Hymn: #109 (vs. 1) “The first Nowell”

1 The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor
shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay,
keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was
so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the
King of Israel.

Second Lesson from Isaiah 11: 1-3a; 4a; 6-9 (*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*) (Read by the Schuman Family)

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's
den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn: #101 (vs. 1 & 2) “Away in a manger”

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord
Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the
bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord
Jesus asleep on the hay.

- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord
Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until
morning is nigh.

**Third Lesson from Luke 1: 26-35; 38 (*The Angel Gabriel
announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of
the Most High*) (Read by the Gould Family)**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The LORD is with you." But she was much

perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the LORD; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn: #102 (vs. 1 & 2) "Once in royal David's city"

- 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, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**Fourth Lesson from Luke 2: 1-20 (*Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshipped by angels and shepherds*)
(Read by the Lane Family)**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn: #96 (vs. 1-3) "Angels we have heard on high"

1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly
through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing
their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of
happy cheer? What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3 Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the
angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the
Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Homily

The Peace

Hymn #87 “Hark! the herald angels sing”

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 host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: 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 God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

3 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. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of

Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: #111 "Silent 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.

Fifth Lesson from John 1: 1-14 (*The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory*) (Mo. Jean to chant)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Christmas Season Blessing:

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

The People's Representative: Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.

The People's Representative: Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

The People's Representative: Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

The People's Representative: Amen.

Closing Hymn: #100 "Joy to the world" (verses 1, 2, & 4)

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sign, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and

wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and
wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Presider: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the
power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

***The People's Representative:* Thanks be to God.
Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Postlude: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” by Alec
Wyton**

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Coffee Hour *Stay online to share fellowship time and
prayer. You will be assigned to a Breakout Room in Zoom.*