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**Order of Worship  
2017**

**December 24,**

Reflection

As Tim Keller has said, if our goal was that in 2,000 years from now, 75% of the human race will know our name, 25% of the human race will center their entire lives around us, our body of teaching will be the most influential in history, and whole civilizations will be built on our vision for flourishing, our strategy *would not* include being born among farm animal urine in a stable in a little town in the middle of nowhere, spend our life outside all the networks of economic, political, and academic power, get no credentials, then get executed early in our career as an absolute disgrace. And yet, this is how God chose to break into history and change things.

This is how God chose to demonstrate his rule over every person, place, and thing.

-Scott Sauls

Prelude

*As worship begins, please silence your electronic devices.*

Call To Worship

*Luke 2:14; Isaiah*

9:2

Leader: Come, let us worship our God and King!

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth  
peace to those on whom his favor rests!**

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a  
great light; on those living in the land of the shadow  
of death a light has dawned.

**People: Jesus Christ is our life and light!**

Song

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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

Christ by highest heav'n adored  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see  
Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings  
Ris'n with healing in His wings  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth  
Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Prayer of Adoration

Glory to you, God the Father, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you rule and direct our lives. Glory to you, Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*The Angels' Candle*

*Psalm 89:1-4; Luke 1:26-38*

Reader: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the Angels' Candle. We light these candles to remind us

that Jesus is the Light of the world. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Doxology

*Old Hundredth*

Praise God whose light fills all the earth  
Whose love we see in Jesus' birth  
Whose Spirit forms one family  
Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

**O promised Christ: we are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a sinful people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing God's will is that you should come and help us do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your peace, for your pardon, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

Private Confession

Song

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.  
O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe. (Refrain)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave. (Refrain)

O come, thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. (Refrain)

O come, thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery. (Refrain)

Words of Pardon and Comfort

*Galatians*

4:4-5

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his  
Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to

redeem those who were under the law, so that we might be adopted as children.

Song

*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,  
All seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down,  
And glory shone around.  
"Fear not," said he—for mighty dread  
Had seized their troubled mind—  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
To you and all mankind.

"To you in David's town this day,  
Is born of David's line,  
The Saviour, who is Christ, the Lord,  
And this shall be the sign.  
"The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
To human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
And in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith  
Appeared a shining throng  
Of angels praising God, who thus  
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,  
And to the earth be peace:  
Goodwill henceforth, from heav'n to men,  
Begin and never cease!"

*(Children through Kindergarten are dismissed for  
Children's Church; they will return for Communion.)*

Prayer of Intercession (Concluded by the Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

High Desert Highlights

*See Announcements on page 13*

Offertory

Scripture

*John*

*1:1-18*

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light

of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Sermon:  
*Dan Rose*

*Rev.*

*“Home for Christmas”*

Song:  
*World!*

*Joy to the*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,

And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods,  
Rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

#### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*This is a time for all people to seek the Lord. For Christians, the Lord's Supper (also called Communion or The Eucharist, which means 'thanksgiving') is a time to meet with their Savior by faith, to be strengthened and renewed by Him as they eat the bread and drink the elements. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior and Lord, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, are at peace with their fellow neighbor, and seek strength and grace to live more faithfully to Christ, are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer (see Prayers on page 12) and to consider more deeply your relationship to Jesus Christ. We also ask that children who have not yet publicly professed their faith in Christ refrain from*

*partaking until doing so. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are offered in each serving tray.*

Words of Institution

Memorial Acclamation

Minister: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!**

Minister: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Song

*How Great Our Joy*

While by the sheep I watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

Refrain:

How great our joy! Great our joy!

Joy, joy joy!

Joy, joy joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. (Refrain)

There shall the Child lie in a stall,  
This Child who shall redeem us all. (Refrain)

This gift of God we'll cherish well,  
That ever joy our hearts shall fill. (Refrain)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Gracious God, Jesus is the center point of history, and his presence is our new beginning. Center our lives on your lavish grace that not only saves but renews us to be like Jesus. May our godly living be a fitting testimony of thanksgiving that draws others to the joyful reign of Christ the King. Amen.**

Song

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled

When lo above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And brought us God's salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

### Benediction

### Postlude

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### Prayers

*Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:* Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

*Prayer of Belief:* Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross,

taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

*Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin:* Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need, and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the Pioneer and Perfecter of my faith. Amen.

*Prayer of Commitment:* Lord Jesus, you have called us to follow you in baptism and in a life of committed discipleship in your church. Grant that I may take the necessary steps to be one with your people, and live in the fullness of your Spirit. Amen.

### **Announcements**

We will gather for worship next Sunday at 10 am here at DRMS. Pastor Dan will preach on a Christmas theme.

Please consider HDPC in your year-end giving! Contributions must be postmarked no later than December 31 to be included in 2017 giving. See Bob Clark if you have questions.

