
Order of Worship

December 22, 2024

Reflection

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable,
And that far-beaming blaze of majesty,
Wherewith he wont at Heaven's high council-table
To sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside, and, here with us to be,
Forsook the Courts of everlasting Day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

- John Milton

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

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,

And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song. (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore, on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

See Him in a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth.
Mary, Joseph lend your aid;
With us sing our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

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 Shepherds' Candle*

Psalm 80:1-7

Reader: We light the fourth candle of Advent, the Shepherds' 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

Heavenly Father, in the gift of your Son you have given to us the greatest gift of all. In and through Jesus Christ, we have become inheritors of all things. There is no other present that can compare! Yet, we still grow anxious about what we do not have or have not received. Forgive us, Lord. We still greedily hoard

our possessions, time and resources as though they were ours, when they were really given by you and meant to be shared. Forgive us, Lord. We confess that our lack of faith has led us to be ruled by fear instead of shaped by love. In this Advent season, Holy Father, may we behold the greatness of your gift in Jesus, the Christ. Help us to walk in the newness of life He has given and to rejoice in the abundance of your grace and mercy. Amen.

Private Confession

Song

Heaven Has Come to Us

Unto us from on high
Reaching down into the deepest night
To the world hope has come
In the dark the Light of Life has dawned

Chorus:

What a myst'ry oh what love
Oh how can it be that Heaven has come (to us)

Unto us meek and mild
God eternal born a helpless child
Set aside Heaven's throne
Veiled in weakness came unto His own (Chorus)

Unto us grace has come
Here to seek and bring the sinner home
Lived to die rose to reign
Son of Man the Lamb for sinners slain (Chorus)

Heaven has come to us
Heaven has come to us

Words of Pardon and Comfort

Romans 8:38-39

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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!"

*(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 'Church Life' on p. 15*

Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

If you have a financial gift, you may place it in the offering plate, located on the information table. Donations can also be given electronically; see highdeserttpca.com for more information.

Scripture

Luke 2:1-14

Sermon

Rev. Dan Rose

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

O Come, Let Us Adore Him: Songs Fit for a King

Song

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens' all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled;
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;

Oh rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When the new heaven and earth shall own
The Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

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 14) 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. Gluten-free bread is also available.

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.

Song

Reign in Me

With groanings too deep for words
I yearn for You I yearn for You
With all of my weakness I come
In need of You in need of You

Chorus:

Savior save me
Healer heal me

Jesus have Your way
King of glory reign in me
Reign in me

I surrender to You alone
Your will be done Your will be done
With all of my heart I resign
My life to You it's all for You (Chorus)

Forever I will say You are good
And Your promises will never fade away
Never fade away
You're pouring out Your strength
And Your joy is everlasting
I will never be the same
Oh I will never be the same (Chorus)

Song

O Sacred Head Now Wounded

O sacred Head, now wounded,
With grief and shame weighed down;
Now scornfully surrounded
With thorns, thine only crown;
O sacred Head, what glory,
What bliss till now was thine!
Yet, though despised and gory,
I joy to call thee mine.

What thou, my Lord, hast suffered
Was all for sinners' gain:
Mine, mine was the transgression,
But thine the deadly pain.
Lo, here I fall, my Saviour!
'Tis I deserve thy place;
Look on me with thy favor,
Vouchsafe to me thy grace.

What language shall I borrow
To thank thee, dearest Friend,
For this thy dying sorrow,
Thy pity without end?
O make me thine for ever;
And should I fainting be,
Lord, let me never, never
Outlive my love to thee.

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

Angels From the Realm of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain:

Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant light: (Refrain)

Wise men, leave your contemplation,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star; (Refrain)

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear: (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.