



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 27, 2020 10:30 a.m.

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

O Little Town of Bethlehem

arr. C. Curry

Matthew 2: 4-6: *When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"*

"O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."
(by Phillips Brooks; 1868; public domain) (this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2010)

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Call to Worship**

Liz Perraud

L: Praise the Lord!

P: Praise God from the heavens.

L: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

P: Let us praise the name of the Lord, whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.

L: Let us worship God!

****Hymn – 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

****Silent Prayer of Confession**

****Common Prayer of Confession**

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children. We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. We have not been a light to the nations, and our lives have not revealed your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Repair the ugliness of our sin and restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Assurance of Pardon**

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

****Response – 102**

Moment with Children

Word in Music

Angels From the Realms of Glory

arr. M. Hayes

Jennifer Seinfeld, piano solo

Malachi 3:1: *"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty.*

"Angels from the realms of glory wing your flight over all the earth. Ye, who sang Creation's Story now proclaim Messiah's birth. Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King." (words by J. Montgomery, 1816; music by H. T. Smart. 1866; public domain)
(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2006)

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

Mark 1: 14-28

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

The Work of Christmas

Rev. Scott Hoffman

****Hymn - 137**

He Came Down

Offertory

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. C. Tornquist

Luke 2:9-11: *An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."*

*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 th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King." (by C. Wesley, 1739; public domain)
(this piano solo: Alfred Music Co., Inc.; 2009)*

****Doxology - 710**

We Lift Our Voices

Prayers of Thanksgiving with The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")

****Hymn - 136**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

****Benediction**

Postlude

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. P. Keveren

Luke 2:13-14: *A great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men, on whom His favor rests."*

"Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly singing o'er the plains; and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strain. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!"
(inspired by the traditional French carol *Les Anges dans nos campagnes*, meaning "the angels in our Countryside." The first known publication was in 1843; public domain)
(this piano solo: Hal Leonard Corporation, 2007)

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132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

(after stanza 6)



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

He Came Down

137

He came down that we may have love; he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for-ev-er-more.

Leader: Why did he come?

Additional stanzas:

... that we may have light
 ... that we may have peace
 ... that we may have joy

Because this traditional Cameroon piece begins with the refrain, it does not initially reveal that it is cast as a call-and-response song. Assigning the answers to the congregation rather than to the leader is a notable affirmation of the corporate wisdom of God's people.

We Lift Our Voices

We Are an Offering

710

We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our
 lives up to you: we are an of-fer-ing. Lord, use our
 voice - es; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our
 lives; they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing.
 All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we
 give to you, we give to you. We lift our
 voice - es; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:
 we are an of-fer-ing; we are an of-fer-ing.

This praise and worship song can best be understood as reflecting on and expanding 1 Chronicles 29:14b: "For all things come of you, [O Lord,] and of your own have we given you." There are also echoes of Paul's appeal for Christians to be living sacrifices (Romans 12:1).

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain $\text{♪} = \text{♪}^{\circ} \text{♪}$

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

Fine

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.