

Christ Presbyterian Church

December 13, 2020

Welcome & Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Song

Joy Has Dawned

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation;
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
but a humble gift of love:
Jesus, born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels,
as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
cling now to a mother's breast, vulnerable and helpless.

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story:
Gold – a King is born today;
Incense – God is with us;
Myrrh – his death will make a way, by His blood he'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty Champion.
What a Savior! What a Friend!
What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of history.

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty Lord, we find great delight in the good things you have given us to enjoy, but we rarely spend time delighting in you. We tend to enjoy you when you give us what we want, but we are anxious, fretful, and angry when life is hard, and you seem unwilling to rescue us from uncomfortable or painful circumstances. We fail to bear grief and shame patiently, because we forget that you alone are our stronghold in trouble. Lord, forgive us. We thank you for your beautiful Son, who found joy in you above all else, and perfectly trusted your will. Thank you for uniting us to Christ, so that his joy is our joy. (silent prayer)

*Words of Assurance

Jesus, Hope of Every Nation

Jesus, hope of every nation, light of heaven upon our way;
promise of the world's salvation, spring of life's eternal day!
Saints, by faith on God depending, wait to see Messiah born;
sin's oppressive night is ending in the glory of the dawn.

Look, he comes! - the long-awaited
Christ, Redeemer, living Word;
hope and faith are vindicated as with joy we greet the Lord.
Glory in the highest heaven to the Father, Spirit, Son;
on the earth all praise be given to our God, the Three-in-One!

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pastoral Prayer

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.

Old Testament Scripture Reading

Genesis 3:1-7

Imagine

1. Who hears,
who hears the voice of the hungry, the thirsty?
Who sees,
who sees the tears of the suffering ones?

Refrain:

*Imagine a King who would come through the darkness,
and walk where I walk;
full of greatness,
and call me to his side, just like a father and child*

2. Who knows,
who knows the hopes that lie hidden, forgotten?
Who comes,
who comes to lead all the children home?
(Refrain)

Scripture Reading

John 1:14-18

Sermon

"The Savior Reigns"

*Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Closing Song

Joy to the World

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 all 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.

Benediction