

Christ Presbyterian Church

December 20, 2020

Welcome & Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Song

Love Has Come

Love has come – a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises;
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high!

Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
What is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come – he never will leave us!
Love is life, everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God our Father, we spend much time troubled and conflicted, but you are forever at perfect peace. Your plans cause you no fear or anxiety. Your power knows no limits and your loving goodness no boundaries. Though we should trust you and be at peace, we are prone to anger and conflict because we cannot make other people bend to our will. We make promises to you we cannot keep, and fall into despair and bitterness when we fail. Father, forgive us, and give us peace in our weakness. Help us to accept our complete dependence on your grace, given to us through your Son, who laid aside his glory and was born as one of us that we might know your peace.
(silent prayer)**

*Words of Assurance

All Praise to You, Eternal Lord

All praise to you, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
choosing a manger for your throne, while worlds on worlds are yours alone.

Once did the skies before you bow; a virgin's arms contain you now;
angels, who did in you rejoice, now listen for your infant voice.

You came to us in darkest night to make us children of the light;
to make us, in the realms divine, like your own angels 'round you shine.

All this for us your love has done: by this to you our love is won;
for this we marvel at your ways and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.

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

Isaiah 42:1-7

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, good will to men, from heaven's 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.

And 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.
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

Sermon

“God and Sinners Reconciled”

*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

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 hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

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 Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Benediction