

Lord's Day Worship

January 2, 2022

*(Asterisk) indicates *Please stand as you are able.*

PRAISE

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

"Love Has Come"

RENEWAL

* Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, the wells of your compassion never run dry. Your mercies are new every morning. We look back, Lord, on a year now ended. We remember our high hopes and resolve when it began; and we confess that our selfishness, pride, and deceit soon made a mess of it. Father, forgive the sins we knew as we committed them, and forgive all the sins we did not know, which still did harm. Make us new, Lord. By your grace, empower us to serve your Kingdom in the time we are given. And so crown this new year with your goodness that, when it ends, we will know it to have been indeed a year of grace, a year of our Lord, Jesus Christ. (silent prayer)

*Song *"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"*

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.

COMMITMENT

Offering

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

*Hymn

"Fullness of Grace"

New Testament Reading

John 1:1-18

Sermon

"Grace and Truth"

Prayer

* Affirmation of Faith

The Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1 (1563)

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

* Song

"Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery"

The Lord's Supper

* Closing Song

"New Year Prayer"

* Benediction

* Dismissal

Church, where are you going?

We go forth to serve God's world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Glory to God!

The Search

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? – Matt. 2:1-2

Every human story is about a journey and a search. You leave home to go to college, or to work, or to start a family. Then you leave one job for another, or one city for another in search of a better life, and then at last the place to retire. We're on a journey in search of our lives.

Around the time Jesus was born, "wise men from the east" saw a new star in the sky and followed its light in hopes of finding a newborn king who could bring an end to their search. Perhaps they knew about the hope of a new King in Israel, because over 500 years earlier the Word of God made its way to that part of the world when the Jews were in Exile in Babylon. Perhaps that Scriptural hope had been handed down to them, they put it together with a sign in the heavens, and set out on their journey.

When the wise men met the infant Jesus, they knew they had come to the end of their journey. They stopped their search, and bowed down to the true King and Savior. Maybe that's why we call them wise men; they knew to submit to the truth when they found it – found *him*.

The wise men found Jesus because Holy Scripture had come to them. Jesus is found nowhere else. As Martin Luther said, "The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid." If you would seek Christ this new year, travel deeply into God's Word. If you seek with an open heart you will find him. And when you do, be wise: offer your gifts, your worship, your whole self. He is worthy.

Pastor Phil Moran



CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

“...so that Jesus Christ might come to have first place in everything.” Colossians 1:18 (b) NRSV

January 2, 2022 | Pastor Phil Moran
“Grace and Truth”
John 1:1-18

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