

Our Worship of God

December 24, 2019

11:00 pm

≪ Christmas Eve Worship

Pre-Service Music Tamila Freitas, Bruno Nascimento, Colleen Ostercamp,

Pedro Ramiro, Allyson Gortmaker

Prelude Sheep May Safely Graze Bach

Tamila Freitas, flute - Pedro Ramiro, violin - Colleen Ostercamp, organ

Greeting & Invitation to Worship Pastor Carol McEntyre

+Opening Hymn #170 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Lighting of the Advent Candles (responsive)

Janet, Nick, Lexie, Cole, and Tavie Kieffer

There is an ember of light –

A spark of fire spreading through creation-

The promise of God

To Mary

To Joseph

To us.

It glows in every heart;

In every soul it seeks to burst into flame.

The Advent candles are lit

Here is the ember of light:

In a story passed on through the ages,

In a love surpassing all loves,

In a God who became vulnerable,

In the birth of a child

Who is God,

Jesus of Nazareth,

Emmanuel, God with us.

An ember whose flame will kindle the world.

Anthem

People Look East

Chancel Choir

People, look east.
The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today,
Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad.
Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today,
Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch.

When night is dim,
one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today,
Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east, and sing today,

Matthew 1:1, 16

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Our Lord. Praise Be to Christ.

Five Women: Mary Portrayed by Karlye Jeffries

The Music of ChristmasBorn in Me
Shelby Myers

Lighting of the Christ CandleKatie Myers

Message Carol McEntyre

Jesus' Family Tree: Mary and Joseph

The Music of Christmas O Holy Night Taylor Stuart, soloist

Litany for Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Our souls magnify you, O Lord, and our spirits rejoice in you, for you are our Savior. In every generation, you have shown the lowly your favor and have blessed the poor in their need. When the time had come, you looked with favor on Mary in her lowliness and by the power of your Holy Spirit she gave birth to your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

With all generations, we call her blessed, and with her we rejoice in your saving help. Through her, through us, and through your whole Church you have done great things by your might and so with Mary, with saints, with angels and archangels, with all your people on earth and in heaven, we proclaim the holiness of your name:

Holy, holy Lord
God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna in the highest.

Holy God, let your Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine and let the power of your Spirit overshadow them, that they may become holy and be, for us, the body and the blood of Jesus Christ, your son and Mary's son.

For on the night that he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, broke it and gave it to them saying, Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.

Similarly, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them saying, Drink from this, all of you, this is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

So with this bread and this cup we remember that your mercy endures from age to age on all who seek you. We proclaim your greatness and might and the strength of your arm, as you scatter the proud and raise the lowly. Fill us and all who hunger with good things and remember with your saving help all in need of your mercy.

For you are the God of Tamar and Judah,

of Rahab and Salmon

of Ruth and Boaz

of Bathsheba and David

of Mary and of Joseph,

of us and of the saints of every age;

the God and Creator of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we worship you gracious and holy God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Observance of Holy Communion

(All who call on the name of Christ are welcome at the table. We will partake of the supper in front of the Chancel area. Please progress row by row down the center aisle and return to your seats from the side aisles.)

+Hymn of Joy #146

Joy to the World

+Sharing the Light of Christmas

(The congregation will form a circle around the sanctuary and receive light from one another. When lighting your candle, it is best to tip the unlit candle towards the flame of the lighted candle.)

Christ, the light of the world, gives each one of us light, So that we too may shine with gratitude, hope, and love. Receive the light that comes to you: it comes from the Christ candle, But it reaches you only through your neighbors. Receive the light from a sibling in Christ.

Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round you virgin mother and Child, holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, Radiant beams from thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

+Benediction

O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! Blow out your candles now, but take the light of Christ into the world with you.

Announcements

New Sermon Series: You're Enough: Embracing Original Blessing

Scripture tells us when God spoke the world into existence, all of creation was anointed with goodness. God bestowed this goodness, or blessing, before creation had done anything at all. This gift is called original blessing and all human beings are endowed with it! Yet, our culture constantly bombards us with the message that we are not enough...not thin enough, rich enough, beautiful enough, smart enough, promoted enough, or powerful enough. With all of these negative messages coming our way, how do we develop a sense of inner worthiness? Can we let go of perfectionism and shame? Come learn how original blessing can be an anchor that reminds each of us, "You're Enough."

Worship Notes

O Little Town of Bethlehem, Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868.

Communion Litany, — Copyright © Mark Rowland, on Mark Rowland Worship Resources website.

Born In Me, Christa Wells, David Heller, JJ Heller, CCLI#7141316

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