

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

December 13, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude *Parents of children ages 3-1st grade: Children's Church will be for the entire worship hour this Sunday. Please silence all phones/electronic devices as we prepare to worship our great God.*

Welcome and Announcements

The Song of Ascent *God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray;

Refrain: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Call to Worship

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. — Isaiah 9.2,6

Invocation

Carols of Praise *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: *Gloria in excelsis Deo. (x2)*

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

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 heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring 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 hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Proclaiming the Incarnation through Word and Song

THE COMFORT AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS

Reading of God's Word

Luke 1.76-79, 2.25-32

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

WANTED: COMFORT AND JOY

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas Day Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head: "There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, With peace on earth, good will to men."

Till, ringing singing, on its way, The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Pastoral Prayer

THE CHILD WHO BRINGS COMFORT AND JOY

Canticle of the Nativity

And in the Fullness of Time

And in the fullness of time, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son.
And His name shall be called Emmanuel, God with us.
And we have seen His glory, full of grace and truth.

Jesus, O Holy Child

Jesus, O holy Child, sweet Jesus, O holy Child, dear Jesus, O holy Child.
Jesus, O holy Child Jesus, my Savior, Jesus, Redeemer,
He was born on Christmas day.

Born of Mary, Son of God, born to show us how to live,
And born, born to save us, to save us from sin.
He was born on Christmas day.

Jesus, O holy Child, Jesus my Savior, O sweet Jesus, Redeemer,
He was born on Christmas day.

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

The virgin Mary had a baby boy (x3)
and they said that His name was Jesus.

And unto us a blessed child is born (x3)
And they said that His name was Jesus.

He come down, He come from the glory, He come down,
He come from the glorious Kingdom (x2)

And He will be the Savior of the world (x3)
And they said that His name was Jesus.

Oh, yes, believer, (x3) He come from the glorious Kingdom.

THE LIGHT OF COMFORT AND JOY

Our Gifts to God

His Tithes and Our Offerings

The Newborn King

Orchestra

CELEBRATING COMFORT AND JOY

Festival of Carols

(PLEASE JOIN WITH THE CHOIR)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; I
et earth receive her King,
Let every heart prepare Him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him! O come, let us adore Him!
O come, let us adore Him! Christ, the Lord.

Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

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 host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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.

Choir only singing:
Joy to the World!

ULTIMATE COMFORT AND JOY

Our Response

Hymn of Response

The Hallelujah Chorus

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah

For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah)
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah)
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah (Hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah)
For the Lord God omnipotent reigneth (Hallelujah,
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah)
Hallelujah

The Kingdom of this world
Is become
The Kingdom of our Lord
And of His Christ
And of His Christ

And He shall reign forever and ever
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign
forever and ever)
And He shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign
forever and ever)
And he shall reign forever and ever (And He shall reign
forever and ever)

King of Kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And Lord of Lords (Forever and ever hallelujah
hallelujah)

King of Kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And Lord of Lords (Forever and ever hallelujah
hallelujah)

King of Kings (Forever and ever hallelujah hallelujah)
And Lord of Lords
King of Kings and Lord of Lords

And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign)

King of Kings forever and ever
And Lord of Lords hallelujah hallelujah
And he shall reign forever, forever and ever

King of Kings and Lord of Lords
King of Kings and Lord of Lords
And he shall reign forever and ever (And he shall reign
forever and ever)

Forever and ever, forever and ever (King of Kings and
Lord of Lords)

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Hal-- le--- lu—jah!

Prayer of Application/A Moment of Reflection

The Benediction and Three-Fold Amen