

WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

DECEMBER 19, 2021

GATHERING TO WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Dee Hammond, Pastor of Missions & Outreach

The Song of Ascent

God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.

Congregation

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle, till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

ADORATION OF GOD

Call to Worship:

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
—Luke 1.30-33

Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

Declaration of Truth: (Responsively)

Luke 2.36-38 Leader:

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

All: Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Hymns of Praise

O Come, All Ye Faithful

#208

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;

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

God of God, Light of Light;
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Ve-ry God, begotten not created.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
Glory to God, in the highest

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing;

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

#203

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!"

Refrain: *Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.

CMPC MISSION AND FAMILY LIFE

Reception of New Members and the Sacrament of Covenant Baptism

The sacrament of covenant baptism is given to Nathan & Kasia Tunnell's child, Emma, as a believer in Jesus Christ.

Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Pastoral Prayer

Mission Moment Tragedy in the Mid-South

OUR GIFTS TO GOD
The Gift of Music

Gesu Bambino

Elizabeth Jobson

Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering

The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Testimony

Silent Night! Holy Night!

(Children ages three through third grade may be escorted to Children's Church)

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!

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly 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!

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

PROCLAIMING THE WORD OF GOD

Reading of God's Word

Luke 2.22-35

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25 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. 26 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. 27 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, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 29 "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation 31 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." 33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

All: *The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Prayer of Illumination

Sermon

Simeon's Story
Christmas Mini-Series: *The Wonder of Emmanuel*

Pastor John

OUR RESPONSE

Prayer of Application

Hymn of Response *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!

The Benediction and Threefold Amen