



## Christmas Day Worship

December 25, 2020

### Oh, Come, Let Us Adore Him!


#### BELLS AND WELCOME

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

*Organist will softly play the intro to Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful as the invocation is proclaimed:*

M Behold, "now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them."  
(Revelation 21:3)

C For "today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ,  
the Lord!" (Luke 2:11)

 Oh, come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, Born the King of angels.

M Arise, shine, for your Light has come.


C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M And the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

 God from true God, and Light from Light eternal,  
Born of a virgin, to earth he comes,  
Only begotten Son of God the Father.

M For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given.


C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M And the government will be on His shoulders.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

 **Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above.  
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest.**

M Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him,

M Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace, to those on whom his favor rests.

C   
O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M As children of Adam and Eve, we long to be free from the burden of our sin and shame. Therefore, we confess our sins before God that we may receive his assurance of forgiveness and peace.

C **Holy Father, I confess that my sins are no different from those of my first parents. I, too, have failed to trust you. I have reached out my hand for the forbidden fruit, and have tried to deny my guilt by hiding from your presence. For this I deserve to be barred from the tree of life forever. But to you I cry for mercy. To you I come for healing. Trusting in my Savior, Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M On this holy day, God declares to us: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n,  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Christ, the Lord.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray.  
God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-9

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, <sup>2</sup>but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. <sup>3</sup>The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. <sup>4</sup>So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

The Son Superior to Angels

<sup>5</sup>For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
"You are my Son; today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,

<sup>6</sup>And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,  
"Let all God's angels worship him."

<sup>7</sup>In speaking of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels spirits,  
and his servants flames of fire."

<sup>8</sup>But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;  
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup>You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions  
by anointing you with the oil of joy."

## HYMN RESPONSE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

**Now sing we, now rejoice, Now raise to heav'n our voice;  
He from whom joy streameth Poor in a manger lies;  
Not so brightly beameth The sun in yonder skies.  
Thou my Savior art! Thou my Savior art!**

**Come from on high to me; I cannot rise to thee.  
Cheer my wearied spirit, O pure and holy Child;  
Through thy grace and merit, Blest Jesus, Lord most mild,  
Draw me unto thee! Draw me unto thee!**

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

M In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

C **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**

M In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

C **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

M There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe.

C **He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.**

M The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

C **He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.**

M Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

All **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,  
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;  
But there is room and welcome there for me,  
But there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said:  
Sweet newborn babe, how frail! and in a manger bed,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,  
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,  
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,  
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned  
Its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me,  
To die, to live, and not alone for me?

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

**Matthew 1:22, 23**  
*Pastor David Kuehl*

### God's Christmas Gift to the World: Immanuel

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

## RESPONSE

What brought thee to the manger, O Christ-child, sweet and dear?  
Thy love for me, a stranger — Oh, be thou ever near!  
O Lord, how great is this thy love That reaches down from heav'n above  
Thy love for us, by sin defiled, That made thee, God, a child!

Let me be thine forever, O Christ-child, sweet and dear.  
Uphold me with thy mercy; Oh, be thou ever near!  
From thee I gladly all receive, And what is mine to thee I give;  
My heart, my soul, and all I own — Let these be thine alone.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**M** Lord God, heavenly Father, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we praise you for the special love you have shown us, your fallen and sinful creatures.

**C** You have kept your word and sent your Son to be born as the promised Savior and Redeemer.

M Lord Jesus Christ, we marvel at your servant-like heart, which moved you to do your Father's will and take on our flesh.

**C You became fully human so that you might live the holy and perfect life we could not live, endure the agony of the cross, and suffer death as our substitute.**

M O Holy Spirit, we thank you for your saving work of bringing us to faith in our newborn Savior.

**C You have opened our eyes to see that, despite his humble appearance and lowly circumstances, this child who lies in Bethlehem's manger is the mighty God, the Redeemer of the world.**

M God of our salvation, as you have brought us to faith in the Christ Child, so we ask that you would work powerfully also in the hearts of those who do not yet know him or who do not know him in truth. Grant that the world's attention to the Christ Child may not be only a seasonal attraction or a sentimental novelty. Rather, bring sinners to faith that they may see him as the answer to life's problems here and the sure hope of life eternal in heaven with you.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

M Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

M Let the joyous message of Christmas be preached in all the world, and may it find ready acceptance in believing hearts, for the eternal benefit of lost souls, for the extension of your kingdom, and for the glory of your holy name.

**C Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**ALL Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

## Joy to the World


Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry 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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

## CLOSING PRAYER

**M** Let us pray.  
O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus Christ your only-begotten Son. Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he comes again to take us home to heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Bear near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care.  
And take us to heaven to live with you there.

## BENEDICTION

**M** May Christmas peace be yours; and may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be and abide with you forever.

**C:** Amen.