



Home
for
Christmas

Christmas Day

December 25, 2020

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Today the Christ is born! Alleluia!

All: Today salvation has appeared! Alleluia!

Pastor: Today on earth choirs of angels are singing!

All: Today in heaven archangels are rejoicing!

Pastor: Today the just exult and say,

All: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Arise, Brothers and Sisters, for your light has come! The Glory of the Lord rises upon you. Do not let the darkness that covers the earth cover your faith. Do not allow the thick darkness that is over the people to inhabit your soul. But let the light in, and all the nations will come to your light. To see the glory of the Lord, through the life of a newborn, a newborn king. When we allow darkness to overcome the light,

All: forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,

All: have mercy on us, Father.

Pastor: When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and touching the needs of others,

All: let Your grace consume us, O God.

Pastor: When our caring is not extended to action,

All: move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.

All: We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

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

O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

INTROIT: *Psalm 98:1-4*

PASTOR: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

ALL: **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Come and worship; come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the Infant Light.

Come and worship; come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To th'eternal Three in One.

Come and worship; come and worship;
Worship Christ, the newborn King.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

PASTOR: Almighty God, grant that the birth of Your only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free from the bondage of sin; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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 all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:

The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the 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 hastening 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.

READING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY: *Luke 2:1-20*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall

Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all

Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new

Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow

Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A Christmas Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the Savior of the world, He has come!

Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the Savior of the world, He has come!

Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

The heavens roar, the angels sing

All glory to our God and King!

O night divine forevermore, alleluia

The heavens roar, the angels sing

All glory to our God and King!

O night divine forevermore, alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the Savior of the world, He has come!

Alleluia, alleluia! To the highest name of all: Alleluia!

You're the highest name of all; alleluia!

"A Christmas Alleluia" words and music by Chris Tomlin | Jonas Myrin

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken in unison)

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Pastor: May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

All: Amen.

Pastor: May the God of love, who gave His only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

All: Amen.

Pastor: May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until He brings you into His eternal kingdom.

All: Amen.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**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!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the ever-lasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

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