

The Lord's Day | December 13, 2020

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Women's Discipleship Group: Zoom meeting on Monday, 12/14 at 7:00 P M. We will discuss chapter 2 of Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin, "The Case for Bible Literacy." Contact Janet Pryor for more information.

Faith Promise Giving: Remember to prayerfully complete the Faith Promise Giving form. All forms should be completed by Sunday, 12/20. The link is on the home page of the church website. (www.grpca.org)

Tithes and Offerings: Although we are not taking an offering during the worship service, you may place any offerings in the plate in the Narthex. You may also mail checks to the church (1602 Linen Ln. Relay, MD 21227), or give online (grpca.org/give).

Advent Reading | Candle Lighting

Preparation for Worship:

Galatians 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Call to Worship:

Psalms 117

Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Invocation

+Opening Hymn:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Call to Confession:

Psalms 38:1,4,18

O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath! For my iniquities have gone over my head; like a heavy burden, they are too heavy for me. I confess my iniquity; I am sorry for my sin.

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men, we acknowledge and confess our many sins, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed by thought, word, and deed, against Your divine majesty. We do

earnestly repent, and are deeply sorry for our transgressions. The remembrance of them is grievous to us. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father. For Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Worship

Assurance of Pardon:

Isaiah 1:18

Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

+Confession of Faith:

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and of the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**universal*

+Song of Response:

What Child Is This

Pastoral Prayer

+Scripture Reading:

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon: *An Intrusive Savior*

Rev. Eric Tracy

+Closing Hymn:

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

+Benediction

**Please stand if able*

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!"

**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. [Refrain]

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.
[Refrain]

Author: Charles Wesley (1739, 1753; Alt.) Arranger: William
H. Cummings (1856) Composer: Felix Mendelssohn-
Bartholdy (1840)

What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Adapter: William C. Dix (ca. 1865) Source: Traditional English carol

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds
In a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds,
And drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole,
And calms the troubled breast;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul,
And to the weary, rest.

Dear Name, the rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place,
My never failing treasury, filled
With boundless stores of grace!

By Thee, my prayers acceptance gain,
Although with sin defiled;
Satan accuses me in vain,
And I am owned a child.

Jesus, my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

Weak is the effort of my heart,
And cold my warmest thought;
But when I see Thee as Thou art,
I'll praise Thee as I ought.

'Til then I would Thy love proclaim
With every fleeting breath,
And may the music of Thy name
Refresh my soul in death.