

The Lord's Day | December 20, 2020

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Faith Promise Giving: Remember to prayerfully complete the Faith Promise Giving form TODAY. The link is on the home page of *myGRPC!* and the website.

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).

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service: The Zoom service is Thursday at 7:00 PM. If you would like a candle please let the office know by TOMORROW.

Advent Reading | Candle Lighting

Preparation for Worship:

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Call to Worship:

Psalms 118:1,25-29

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

All: Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!

Leader: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!

All: We bless you from the house of the LORD.

Leader: The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. Bind the festal sacrifice with cords, up to the horns of the altar!

All: You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God; I will extol you.

Leader: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;

All: for his steadfast love endures forever!

Invocation

+Opening Hymn:

Joy to the world!

Call to Confession:

Psalms 40:12-13

For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me. Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me!

Prayer of Confession:

O Lord our God, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have broken Your commandments. We have fallen short of Your glory. We have not loved You with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We were born in sin and have continued to sin. Yet You

warn that whoever keeps the whole law and stumbles at one point is guilty of all. We acknowledge our guilt. We rightly fall under Your curse and judgment. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, in Jesus' name. Blot out our transgressions. Wash us from our iniquities. Forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Remove our transgressions as far as the east is from the west. Cast all our sins behind Your back and remember them no more. And lead us by Your Spirit in new obedience, that we might honor you with our thoughts, words, and deeds. We ask all of this in the precious name of our great High Priest, Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Leading In Worship)

Assurance of Pardon:

Romans 8:1,37-39

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

+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:

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Pastoral Prayer

+Scripture Reading:

Matthew 2:1-12

Sermon: *O Worship the King!*

Rev. Eric Tracy

+Closing Hymn:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

+Benediction

**Please stand if able*

Joy to the world!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let 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.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Author: Isaac Watts (1719) Composer: George Frederick Handel
(1742) Arranger: Lowell Mason (1836)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie;
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still,
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Author: Phillips Brooks (1868) Composer: Lewis H. Redner (1868)

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;

**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;
very God, begotten, not created;
[Refrain]
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest; [Refrain]

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; [Refrain]

Attributed to: John Francis Wade (1751) Translator:
Frederick Oakeley (1841; alt.) Source: John Francis Wade's
Cantus Diversi, 1751