



The Nativity of Our Lord

Online Worship for December 25, 2020

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: God of goodness and lovingkindness,

People: **we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Pastor: Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ☩ Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING CAROL

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

ELW #275

Verse 1

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Verse 2

Shepherds, in the fields 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.

Verse 3

Sages, leave your contemplations,
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations,
you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Verse 4

All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, born of Mary, be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

FIRST READING***Isaiah 52:7-10***

- ⁷How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
⁸Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
⁹Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

PSALMODY**"Joy to the World"****ELW #267**

Verse 1 **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 ...**

Verse 2 **Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy ...**

Verse 3 **He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love ...**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 1:1-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again, "I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

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

⁷Of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸But of the Son he says,
"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

¹⁰And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

¹¹they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;

¹²like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Pastor: Alleluia. A holy day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, and adore the Lord. For today a great light has come upon the earth. Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL *John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

SERMON

Pastor Matthew Groenke

CAROL**“Love Has Come”****ELW #292***Verse 1*

Love has come—a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Verse 2

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers;
Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Verse 3

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas;
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

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THE PRAYERS

Leader: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world,
and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Leader: God of glory, you bring your word to birth among us. As you spoke through
prophets and ancestors, empower your church to proclaim your name with
boldness and tenderness, that your salvation is revealed to all the ends of the earth.
Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You founded the earth and the heavens are the work of your hands. Protect the beauty of mountains and valleys. Save glaciers, tundra, and arctic lands from the threat of changing climates. Sustain all things by your powerful word. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You send messengers to announce peace. Build trust among nations. Strengthen relationships that reach beyond borders. Grant safety to ambassadors, relief workers, military personnel, and health care providers who travel across the world. Reveal your redemption through their work. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You bring hope to all people. Bring wholeness to all who long for your comfort and companionship. Revive aching spirits and restore tired bodies. Bring healing and wholeness to all who long for mercy. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Leader: You are the fullness of grace and truth. Bless ministries of generosity in this congregation and community. Open our doors in welcome, extend our tables to guests, and send us out with provisions for those who lack food, water, shelter, clothing, or companionship. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Leader: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. Claim us as your children in this life and in the next. Encourage us by the witness of the saints across the ages who have testified to your light and life. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it 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.**

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872-1925, stanzas, alt.

BLESSING

Pastor: Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels,
sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ☩
through the Word made flesh.

.People: **Amen**

SENDING

Leader: Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Glory to God with Poinsettias from these families:

*John & Wendy Gibbons in memory of John's parents & Wendy's father
and in honor of Wendy's mother*

Linda Mondry in memory of Ted & Peggy Herberth

Ginger & Tom Pituch in honor of granddaughters Leah, Lydia, & Hannah

And in solemn memory of COVID-19 victims

Jane Zaremba in memory of loved ones



Worship Schedule through Epiphany:

Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion - 9:30 AM Sunday, December 27th

**Outdoor Service of Lessons and Carols (no communion) - 9:30 AM Sunday, January
3rd, 2021**

**Recorded Epiphany Worship Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 on CtK Twinsburg channel of
YouTube.com at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0DyPtpgvHWrYdrFgWQso5A>**



WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

9:30 AM Sundays – *Outdoor Worship with Communion* – listen on CtK Radio 90.1 FM

Recorded Weekly Worship – View on CtK Twinsburg Channel of YouTube.com at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0DyPtpgvHWrYdrFgWQso5A>



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