

# Family Christmas Eve Worship

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2024 5:00pm

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people *Luke 1:68*

**OPENING CAROL** Hark The Herald Angels Sing / King Of Heaven

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 angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem  
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace - hail the Son of righteousness  
Light and life to all He brings - risen 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

King of Heaven come down - King of Heaven come now  
Let Your glory reign shining like the day  
King of Heaven come - King of Heaven rise up  
Who can stand against us - You are strong to save  
In Your mighty name King of Heaven come

*Interlude*  
*Oh oh*

Christ by highest heaven adored - Christ the everlasting Lord  
Late in time behold Him come - offspring of a virgin's womb  
Mild He lays His glory by - born that man no more may die  
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**MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT**

## INVOCATION

Pastor: We gather this evening in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: *(John 1:1-4)*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of all. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

People: **The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

Pastor: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made him known.

People: **God is good!**

Pastor: All the time!

People: **All the time.**

Pastor: God is good!

*(Romans 3:19-26)*

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in God's sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

People: **But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation or sacrifice & intercession by His blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in God's divine forbearance He had passed over former sins. It was to show God's righteousness at the present time, so that God might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Thank you Jesus.**

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.**

**Forgive me for my sins, I pray. (Reflection for confession)**

Pastor: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and has given His only Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called servant of Jesus our Christ, and by His authority, I announce God's grace to all of you, and the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. To all who believe on His name He gives power to become the children of God, and give His Holy Spirit. Those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. Grant this, O Lord, unto us all.

**People: Amen**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Daily Text

All shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that He has given you. *Deuteronomy 16:17*

Opening their treasure chests, the magi presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *Matthew 2:11*

Let us pray:

**People: Loving Father, this Christmas Eve I thank You for the most precious gift, Your perfect Son Jesus. Thank You that Jesus is my Savior. You have blessed me in so many ways. In humble gratitude I offer my heart to You. Give me a generous heart to bless others as You have blessed me. Amen.**

### **ANTHEM**

#### **Almost There**

### **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

#### **Old Testament Lesson**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

#### **The Psalm**

*Psalm 147:1-11*

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting. <sup>2</sup> The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel. <sup>3</sup> He

heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. <sup>4</sup> He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names. <sup>5</sup> Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure. <sup>6</sup> The Lord lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre! <sup>8</sup> He covers the heavens with clouds; he prepares rain for the earth; he makes grass grow on the hills. <sup>9</sup> He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry. <sup>10</sup> His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man, <sup>11</sup> but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

### **New Testament Lesson**

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**Reader:** Please rise for the reading of the Gospel. God has given us good news.

**People:** **Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. You have the words of eternal life.**

*(Psalm 119:105, John 6:68)*

### **Gospel Lesson**

John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**People:** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**People:** I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**SERMON SONG**

**O Holy Night**

**O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.**

**A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;  
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

**Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand;  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land.**

**The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend;  
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!**

**Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace;  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name;  
Christ is the Lord, oh, praise His name forever!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!  
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim.**

**SERMON**

**Pr Knoll**

The Mighty One Has Done Great Things For Me, And Holy Is His Name

**OFFERING SONG**

**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?**

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**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 born, 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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

*The congregation is invited to join in prayers that include whole Church,  
the nation, those in need, the parish, additional petitions and special concerns.*

**Pastor:** Let's join together to pray with Jesus for all that He loves right here, and to the ends of the earth. Father, our Father in heaven, You are the present active, Creator, and Redeemer of our heart, soul, mind and body.

**People:** **Thank You Lord, that in You we are made a part of Your great salvation of all that You have created. You have made us Your redeemed children. We join today with all those throughout the world who follow You, and pray that Your kingdom would come, and Your will would be done among us as it is in heaven.**

**Pastor:** Lord, in Your mercy,

**People:** **hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude with these words...*

**Pastor:** You are our God, and we are Your people... Thank You that You hear our prayers, and work in all things for the good of those who love You. To You be all glory, honor, and praise.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Lord, remembering Your love and Your life we pray as You taught us to pray:

**People:** 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

## **BENEDICTION**

**Pastor:** Now, may the Lord bless you and keep you.  
May He make His face shine on you, and be gracious unto you.  
May the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you His peace.

**People:** Amen.

**Blessing:** Child of God, the Mighty One has done great things for us and holy is His Name.

**Pastor:** Our worship continues,

**People:** our service begins!

## **CLOSING CAROL**

### **Silent Night**

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star lend thy light  
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King  
Christ the Savior, is born! Christ the Savior, is born!

### **SHARING OF PEACE AS WE GO IN GOD'S PEACE**

**THE PRESENCE OF ALL** who have come to celebrate Christmas adds to the joy of worshiping the Lord on this glorious night. Welcome, friends! May the full meaning of Christmas be real to us all...now and always. Visitors, check the shelf outside the church office for our newsletter & brochure about our church.

**BLANKETS** in December is a long-time mission of Zion. Blankets are needed all over the world (including here in America in times of disaster). For years we have sent blankets away as part of our preparation for Christmas. Parents & grandparents have sent a blanket in honor of each child or grandchild. Families have given blankets as gifts in thankfulness for blessings. Blankets are used for warmth, for ground cover, for shelter from sun and rain, & often as a makeshift 'suitcase' for personal possessions. Use mission envelopes provided in the newsletter & available on the shelf outside the office to support this ministry.

