

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP

Revelation 12:10, Isaiah 9:6

Leader: Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come ...

People: **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.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

2. All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and Heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Singing bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blessed,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine!

4. Mortals join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning o'er us,
Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife,
Joyful music lifts us Sunward
In the triumph song of life!

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 2:1-10

¹ And Hannah prayed and said,
"My heart exults in the Lord;
my horn is exalted in the Lord.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in your salvation.
² "There is none holy like the Lord:
for there is none besides you;
there is no rock like our God.
³ Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the Lord is a God of knowledge,
and by him actions are weighed.
⁴ The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble bind on strength.
⁵ Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry have ceased to hunger.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
⁶ The Lord kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
⁷ The Lord makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low and he exalts.
⁸ He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap
to make them sit with princes
and inherit a seat of honor.
For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's,
and on them he has set the world.
⁹ "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness,
for not by might shall a man prevail.
¹⁰ The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken to pieces;
against them he will thunder in heaven.
The Lord will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king
and exalt the horn of his anointed."

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

LORD God, we confess that our hearts so often do not exult in you. Though we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus, our affections for you do not rightly accord with this glorious truth. We often look at those with much and grow discontent with our own station in life. Rather than disregarding those who stand opposed to you, we are prone to covet their gains and fail to believe that you are our truest satisfaction. So help us to separate the gift from the Giver, the given thing from you, the Giving One. For every good thing comes from your hand, and every spiritual blessing is seated in the heart of Christ, flowing outwardly to us, his people. Let us not envy the perceived prosperity of the wicked who are far from you, let alone our brother or sister next to us. Rather, tune our personal responses to your every gift, like a stringed instrument, in such a way: with somberness in our minds, with gladness in our hearts, and with humility in our spirits. For you alone, O God, can transform our thinking, our affections, and our wills. And you alone, O Holy Spirit, can usher our souls to swift and manifold praise. So we ask that we would behold Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us, and that you would work out the joy of our salvation into tangible acts of praise this day. In Jesus' name, amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see Thee,
Dayspring from on high appear;
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, Glad tidings of a birth.
"Go to him, your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall,
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

*Authors: Words by Charles Wesley; Music by
Rowland Hugh Prichard
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

HYMN OF PREPARATION

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Israel;
exile here,
appear.
Emmanuel
Israel.

2. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,
tyranny;
people save,
o'er the grave.
Emmanuel
Israel.

3. O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Author: John Mason Neale
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And ransom captive
That mourns in lonely
Until the Son of God
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Shall come to thee, O

Thine own from Satan's
From depths of Hell Thy
And give them victory
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Shall come to thee, O

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-35

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

SERMON

"Jesus, Savior"

- Rev. Rich Brown

COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY HYMN

1. 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.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and cattle 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.

What Child Is This?

3. 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.

Raise, Raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Author: William Chatterton Dix
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HYMN OF RESPONSE

1. 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!"

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting 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 men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King."

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

3. 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."

Authors: Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn
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BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD!

POSTLUDE

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