

# Mercy

Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

### CALL TO WORSHIP

1 Peter 2:9-10

**Leader:** You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**People:** **Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.**

### 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!

## NEW TESTAMENT READING

## Matthew 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, <sup>2</sup>“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” <sup>3</sup>For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said,

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;  
make his paths straight.’”

<sup>4</sup>Now John wore a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region about the Jordan were going out to him, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit in keeping with repentance. <sup>9</sup>And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup>“I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

### John 1:14, 17

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 the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

### HYMN OF ASSURANCE

### Who Is This So Weak and Helpless

1. Who is this, so weak and helpless,  
Child of lowly Hebrew maid;  
Rudely in a stable shelter,  
Coldly in a manger laid?  
'Tis the Lord of all creation  
Who this wondrous path has trod;  
He is Lord from everlasting,  
And to everlasting God.

2. Who is this, a Man of Sorrows,  
Walking sadly life's hard way;  
Homeless, weary, sighing, weeping  
Over sin and Satan's sway?  
'Tis our God, our glorious Savior,  
Who above the starry sky  
Is for us a place preparing  
Where no tear can dim the eye.

3. Who is this? Behold Him shedding  
Drops of blood upon the ground!  
Who is this, despised, rejected,  
Mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?  
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces  
On His church is pouring down;  
Who shall smite in holy vengeance  
All His foes beneath His throne.

4. Who is this that hangs there dying  
While the rude world scoffs and scorns;  
Numbered with the malefactors,  
Torn with nails and crowned with thorns?  
'Tis our God who lives forever  
'Mid the shining ones on high,  
In the glorious golden city,  
Reigning everlastingly.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

## COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### HYMN OF PREPARATION     **O Holy Night (Hear the Gospel Story)**

(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for Equip for Worship during the last stanza.  
Visitors' children are welcome.) This is the Last Equip for Worship until mid-January.

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of our 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, O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

2. Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,  
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.  
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,  
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall.  
In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,  
And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.  
Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

3. Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,  
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.  
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;  
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.  
Eternal life is theirs who will receive Him;  
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.  
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night when Christ was born!

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## SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 20:1-8

<sup>1</sup>One day, as Jesus was teaching the people in the temple and preaching the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes with the elders came up <sup>2</sup>and said to him, "Tell us by what authority you do these things, or who it is that gave you this authority." <sup>3</sup>He answered them, "I also will ask you a question. Now tell me, <sup>4</sup>was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" <sup>5</sup>And they discussed it with one another, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say, 'Why did you not believe him?' <sup>6</sup>But if we say, 'From man,' all the people will stone us to death, for they are convinced that John was a prophet." <sup>7</sup>So they answered that they did not know where it came from. <sup>8</sup>And Jesus said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things."

## SERMON

**"The Authority of Jesus"**  
- Rev. Bryan Rigg

## CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

### COMMUNION HYMN

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."

### Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

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  
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### DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

### SENDING HYMN

#### Chorus

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere.  
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.  
Chorus

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.  
Chorus

### Go Tell it on the Mountain

3. Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation,  
That blessed Christmas morn.

#### Chorus 2x

Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

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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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