

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 11, 2016 • 10:30 AM

CALL TO WORSHIP Luke 1:68-72

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people.

People: And has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David.

Pastor: As he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old.

People: That we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*1. O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*2. 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.*

*3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free
Thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save
And give them victory o'er the grave
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*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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OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:1-12

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy, and say to them, even to the shepherds, Thus says the Lord God: Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep? ³ You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep. ⁴ The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. ⁵ So they were scattered, because there was no shepherd, and they became food for all the wild beasts. My sheep were scattered; ⁶ they wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. My sheep were scattered over all the face of the earth, with none to search or seek for them.

⁷ "Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ⁸ As I live, declares the Lord God, surely because my sheep have become a prey, and my sheep have become food for all the wild beasts, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves, and have not fed my sheep, ⁹ therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the Lord: ¹⁰ Thus says the Lord God, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

¹¹ "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness.

HYMN OF PRAISE God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

*1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray*

Chorus

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*2. From God, our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
Chorus*

*3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might"
Chorus*

*4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind
And went to Bethlehem straight-way the Son of God to find
Chorus 2X*

English carol and melody, 18th century

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy God, not one of us is better than the rest. Each of us is inclined to live for the desires of our sinful nature. We all alike are dead in our trespasses and sins, and without hope apart from Christ. And though now alive in him, we find ourselves easily deceived in the face of temptation, lured once again to live for ourselves, without thought of loving you or loving others. Yet you remain gracious and use even our deepest sins to remind us of our desperate need for Jesus Christ our Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Jude 1:24-25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen

HYMN OF ASSURANCE He Will Hold Me Fast

*1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
When the tempter would prevail, He will hold me fast.
I could never keep my hold through life's fearful path;
For my love is often cold: He must hold me fast.*

Chorus

*He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.*

*2. Those He saves are His delight, Christ will hold me fast;
Precious in His holy sight, He will hold me fast.
He'll not let my soul be lost; His promises shall last;
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast.
Chorus*

*3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;
Justice has been satisfied; He will hold me fast.
Raised with Him to endless life, He will hold me fast
'Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at last!
Chorus 2X*

*Author: Ada Habershon
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PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERING **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

*(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for "Equip for Worship" during the last stanza.
Visitors' children are welcome.)*

*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*

*3. Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn
Chorus 2X
That Jesus Christ is born
That Jesus Christ is born*

*Authors: Words- John W., Jr. Work;
Music - Dave Barnett & Amy Corbett
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SCRIPTURE READING **Jude 1:17-25**

But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹ It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²² And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

²⁴ Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, ²⁵ to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

SERMON **"The Blueprint for the United Church"** - Rev. Bryan Rigg

SONG OF RESPONSE **O Church Arise**

*1. O church, arise,
And put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our Captain
For now the weak,
Can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With shield of faith and belt of truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is Love
Reaching out to those in darkness*

*2. Our call to war –
To love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with the sword
That makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have
The prize for which He died -
An inheritance of nations*

*3. Come see the cross,
Where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes
Lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart shall see Him*

*4. So Spirit come,
Put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run
With faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory*

*As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory*

*Authors: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend
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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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Mercy
Presbyterian Church

*"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."
I Peter 2:10*

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)