



SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Advent

*22 December 2019*

Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, and yet born of a woman. Almighty, and yet hanging on a woman's breast. Supporting a universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms. King of angels, and yet the reputed son of Joseph. Heir of all things, and yet the carpenter's despised son. —C.H. Spurgeon

Maker of the sun, He is made under the sun. In the Father He remains, from His mother He goes forth. Creator of heaven and earth, He was born on earth under heaven. Unspeakably wise, He is wisely speechless. Filling the world, He lies in a manger. Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom. He is both great in the nature of God, and small in the form of a servant. —Augustine of Hippo

The exciting quality of Christmas rests on an ancient and admitted paradox. It rests upon the great paradox that the power and center of the whole universe may be found in some seemingly small matter that the stars in their courses may move like a moving wheel round the neglected outhouse of an inn. —G.K. Chesterton

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## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

*It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.*

### Gospel Invitation—based on Isaiah 35:10

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. For the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

### Introit—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 1

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day, To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy."

Text and Music: 18<sup>th</sup> century English Carol.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

## Call to Worship—from Psalm 103:19-22

Pastor: The Lord has established His throne in the heavens.

All: His kingdom rules over all.

Reader 1: Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His Word, obeying the voice of His Word!

Reader 2: Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will! Bless the Lord in all His works.

All: Bless the Lord in all places of His dominion.

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

## Hymn of Praise—Angels We Have Heard On High

An - gels, we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

*Glo* - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

*Glo* - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text and Music: Traditional French Carol.

# GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

*The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.*

## Hymn of Praise—See, Amid The Winter's Snow

See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,  
Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies:  
Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,  
Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,

See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee, in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

Text: Edward Caswall, 1851; Music: HUMILITY, John Goss, 1870.

## Scripture Reading—Psalm 103:1-6

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits. He forgives all our iniquity. He heals all our diseases. He redeems our lives. He crowns us with steadfast love and mercy. He satisfies us with good so that our strength is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens. And His kingdom rules over all.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Hymn of Praise—Angels From The Realms Of Glory

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear;

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.  
God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen His na - tal star.  
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in His tem - ple shall ap - pear.

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new-born King.

The image shows a three-system musical score for the hymn 'Angels From The Realms Of Glory'. Each system consists of a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

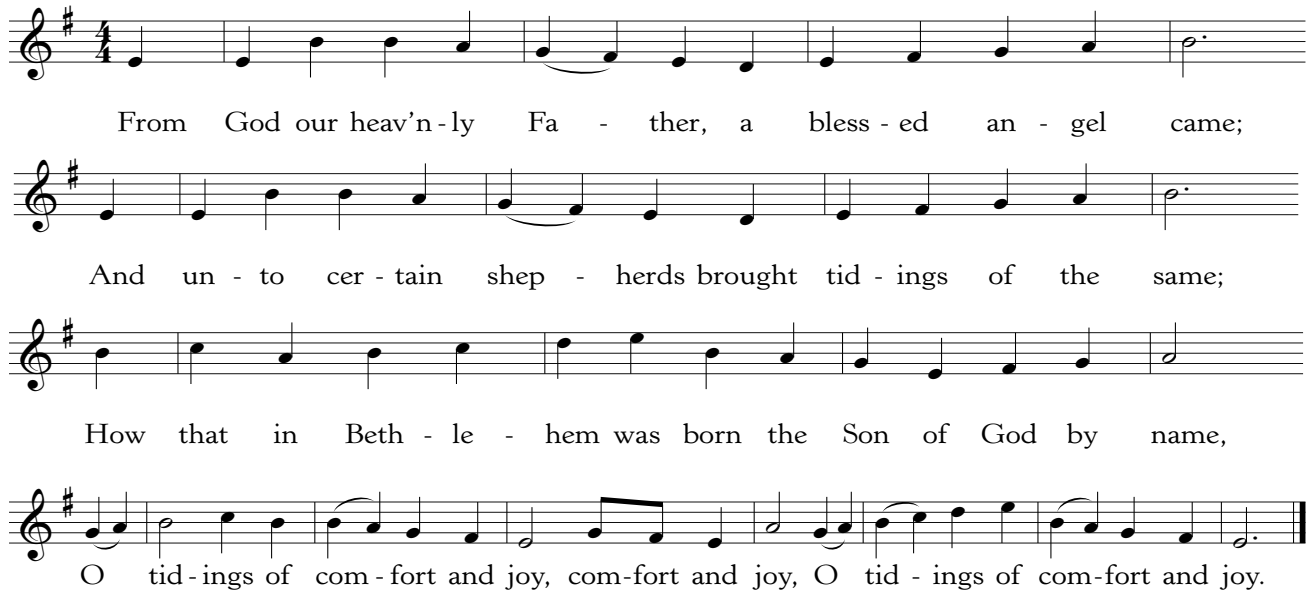
## Reading of the Word—Matthew 2:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy Him." <sup>14</sup> And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called My Son."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 2



From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;  
And un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;  
How that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,  
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18<sup>th</sup> century English Carol.

## Sermon—*The Paradox of Christmas*

—Pastor, George Grant

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

*The People of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.*

### Confession of Sin—based on Isaiah 9:2-7

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that we were people who walked in darkness.

**All: But now we have seen a great light.**

Pastor: We who lived in a land of deep darkness—on us light has shined.

**All: Despite our sins, You have multiplied our blessings, You have increased our joy and so we rejoice before You.**

Pastor: We rejoice as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing treasure.

**All: For the yoke of our burden, and the bar across our shoulders, the rod of our oppressor, You have broken.**

Pastor: There is endless peace at Your throne of mercy.

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

## Sung Response—Lord, Have Mercy

MEN  
Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

WOMEN  
Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy.

MEN  
Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy.

Text: Traditional; Music: CLOVERCROFT KYRIE, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

## Assurance of Pardon—from Psalm 103:8-13, 17; Revelation 15:3-4

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the Ages.

All: **Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?**

Pastor: For You alone are holy. Amen.

## Sung Response—Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

# HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

*As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.*

## Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth,

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

## Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN



We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

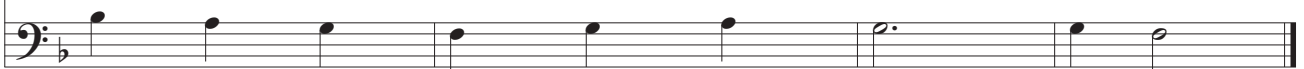
MEN



We praise You, we bless — You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

### Hymn of Contemplation—Creator Of The Stars Of Night



Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, Thy peo - ple's e - ver - last - ing light,  
 Thou griev - ing that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 When earth drew on to dark - est night, You came, but not in splen - dor bright,  
 At Thy dread name, ma - jes - tic now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spir - it, Three in One,

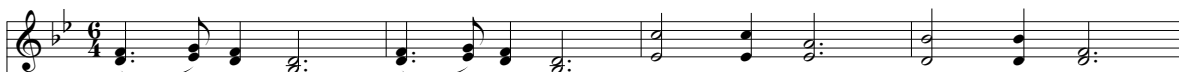


Je - su, re - deem - er, save us all, and hear Thy ser - vants when they call.  
 Hast found the heal - ing, full of grace, to cure and save our ru - ined race.  
 Not as a king, but as the child of Ma - ry, vir - gin moth - er mild.  
 And things ce - les - tial Thee shall own, and things ter - res - trial, Lord a - lone.  
 Laud, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

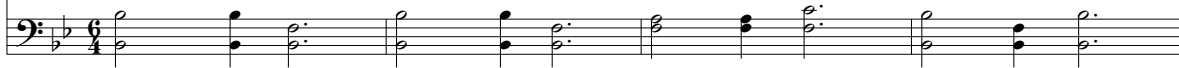


Text: Medieval Latin Hymn, translated by J.M. Neale, 1852; Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, 9<sup>th</sup> century plainsong.

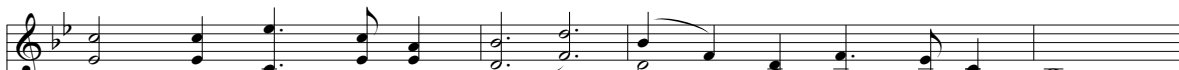
### Hymn of Reflection—Silent Night! Holy Night!



Si - lent night!	Ho - ly night!	All is calm,	all is bright
Si - lent night!	Ho - ly night!	Shep - herds quake	at the sight!
Si - lent night!	Ho - ly night!	Son of God,	love's pure light
Si - lent night!	Ho - ly night!	Won - drous star,	lend thy light;



Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child, ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 With the an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;



Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,	sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!	Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth,	Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!	Christ, the Sav - ior is born!



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818.

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## Hymn of Celebration—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;  
Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
Hail the Heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous - ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
Late in time be - hold Him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
Born to raise the sons of Earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

*After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.*

### Benediction— based on Psalm 103:18

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, and His righteousness to our children's children. Go forth therefore—covered by His perfect provision. Blessed Christmas. Amen.

### Sung Response—God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 3

“Fear not, then,” said the an - gel, “let noth - ing you af - fright;

This day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,

To free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan’s pow’r and might.”

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

Text and Music: 18<sup>th</sup> century English Carol.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

*“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To save all those who trust in Him from Satan’s power and might.”  
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

The hymn that frames our service this morning, *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*, is one of the most beloved Christmas carols in the English-speaking world. Though the earliest published version is from the mid-1700s, variants and fragments can be found at least two centuries earlier. It is the carol referred to in the title of Charles Dickens’ novella *A Christmas Carol*, though in the story Dickens misquotes it as “God bless you, merry gentlemen.” The poetry refers to the appearance of the heavenly hosts to the shepherds in Luke 2, but I thought that the angel’s words of reassurance were equally appropriate to pair with this week’s sermon text from Matthew. As Joseph is warned in a dream to take his family and flee to Egypt ahead of Herod’s murderous soldiers, a reminder that God’s Son was born “to save us all from Satan’s power” would surely be tidings of comfort and joy. —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Angel, Dream, Flee, Egypt, Herod, Spoken, Prophet  
**Keystone Verse:** This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet. (Matthew 2:15)



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### Elders

Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Goodin (306-3652)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Phil Hutcheson (775-7546)	Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericchi (594-3880)
Matt Morrison (482-5107)	Steve Nelson (Emeritus)	Jason Parolini (497-3337)
	John Scherrer (916-0654)	

### Deacons

Jimmy Allen (815-9368)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Christopher Burr (499-3043)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Jeff Dokkestul (618-6064)	Ian Kern (512-9337)
Tom Milligan (805-403-2166)	Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)
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Charlie Snow (400-5925)	Nae Soundara (519-3720)	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)

*All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.*