

# HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## *Order of Worship*

December 24th, 2021

### *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Q: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

*The Westminster Shorter Catechism*

"No single drawing, painting, photograph, or verbal description could ever capture glory. Glory isn't so much a thing as it is a description of a thing. Glory isn't a part of God; it's all that God is. Every aspect of who God is and every part of what God does is glorious. But even that's not enough of a description. Not only is he glorious in every way, but his very glory is glorious!"

Paul Tripp, "The Doctrine of Glory"

"Dear Abba, It's not hard for me to accept You as Father and Savior and Lord and Master. But when it comes to Friend, it's just not as easy. It oughta be, but it's not. The thought that You would want to spend time with me and dine with me and walk with me and be my Friend? That You, the Lord of Glory, would want to be the guest of me, a sinner? That leaves me undone. Simply undone. So I finish this day with that thought being the final one for the day—You, Jesus, want to be my Friend."

Brennan Manning, *Dear Abba*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins;  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

Isaiah 61:1-4

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops;  
siege is laid against us;  
with a rod they strike the judge of Israel  
on the cheek.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to be ruler in Israel,  
whose coming forth is from of old,  
from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has given birth;  
then the rest of his brothers shall return  
to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth.

And he shall be their peace.

Micah 5:1-5

### **O Come All Ye Faithful**

O come all ye faithful / Joyful and triumphant / O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him / Born the King of angels

*O come let us adore Him / O come let us adore Him*

*O come let us adore Him / Christ the Lord*

Sing choirs of angels / Sing in exultation / Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above  
Glory to God, all / Glory in the highest

Yea Lord we greet Thee / Born this happy morning / Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n  
Word of the Father / Late in flesh appearing

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### **THE COMING OF JESUS IS ANNOUNCED TO MARY AND JOSEPH** *Lighting of the Gabriel candle, and the Mary and Joseph candle*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Luke 1:26-38

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-25

### **O Come O Come Emmanuel**

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.***

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.

by Henry Sloane Coffin, Thomas Helmore, and John

### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

Luke 2:1-5

## **O Little Town Of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem / how still we see thee lie;  
above thy deep and dreamless sleep / the silent stars go by:  
yet in thy dark streets shineth / the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years / are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem / descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in / be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels / the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us / our Lord Emmanuel.

by Phillips Brooks and Lewis Henry Redner © Public Domain

## **JESUS IS BORN** *Lighting of the Baby Jesus Candle*

And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:6-7

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

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."*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.

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.

by Felix Mendelssohn and Charles Wesley © Public Domain

## **JESUS' BIRTH IS ANNOUNCED TO THE SHEPHERDS** *Lighting of the Angels' candle*

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a

baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:8-14

### **Angels We Have Heard On High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

### ***Gloria in excelsis Deo / gloria in excelsis Deo.***

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see, him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

by Edward Shippen Barnes and James Chadwick © Public Domain

### **SHEPHERDS FIND BABY JESUS**

#### ***Lighting of the Shepherds' candle***

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

Luke 2:15-18

### **Behold the Lamb**

I have wandered here so long, these desolate scenes  
Watching my flock by day, with more in my dreams  
I was called out long ago, and my father before me  
He said, “Son, your job is to watch over these sheep.”

Little did I know, those many years ago, that one day I would see  
A Lamb born to watch over me

I've wrestled wolves and weathered winds, I've faced many fears  
But nothing quite like that night when the angel appeared  
I fell on my face to a voice like trumpet blasts  
Saying, “This night is born a Savior who will free us all at last!  
For like your sheep you've gone astray, but the Good Shepherd born today,  
He's a keeper of men, and He won't rest  
Till they're all safely gathered in.”

I went straight away to the sight  
Led by one star's brilliant light  
There at the scene, it was all that I could say,  
"Behold the Lamb, who takes our sins away."

Behold the Lamb, who takes our sins away  
Behold the Lamb, who takes our sins away

I still wander through these fields but nothing is the same  
I was called out long ago, called out by name  
Not a day goes by when I don't think of what my father told me  
He said, "Son, your job is to watch over these sheep."

Little did I know, those many years ago  
That one day I would see  
A Lamb born to watch over me

by Michael Kuehn © 2014

## **WISE MEN BRING THEIR GIFTS TO JESUS**

### *Lighting of the Kings' candle*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:1-12

## **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?  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
haste, haste to bring him laud, 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.

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## **PREACHING OF THE WORD**

### **“Glory in the Highest, Good News to the Lowest”**

**Ethan Smith**

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:14

**Leader:** This is the Word of God for the people of God

**All:** *Thanks be to God*

### **Confession of Sin**

O Promised Christ, our lives are filled with sin. We overlook our neighbor's needs and do not love you above all else. Our rescue depends on your coming. We are a world at war. Our peace depends on your coming. We are a guilty people. Our pardon depends on your coming. We are full of good intentions but weak at keeping promises; our only hope of doing your will is that you should come and empower us to do it. Lord Christ, Word made flesh, our world waits for your rescue, for your peace, for your pardon, for your power, and for your grace. Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

### **Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins . . . you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Isaiah 40: 1-2 and Matthew 1: 21

## **THE LORD'S SUPPER**

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**Congregation:** *And also with you.*

**Leader:** Lift up your hearts.

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

**Leader:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***Congregation: It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

**Leader:** Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

***All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

### **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, / heav'nly 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!

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### **BENEDICTION**