

Order of Worship

December 8th, 2019

“I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them.”

Andy Bernard

“Communion between God and man is the end to which both creation and redemption are the means; it is the goal to which both theology and preaching must ever point; it is the essence of true religion; it is, indeed, the definition of Christianity.”

J.I. Packer

“O Christ! He is the fountain, the deep sweet well of love!
The streams on earth I've tasted, more deep I'll drink above!
There to an ocean fullness, His mercy doth expand,
And glory, glory dwelleth, in Emmanuel's land.”

Anne Ross Cundel Cousin

“Heaven means sharing in the blessedness of God so that in the very depths of our being there is divine contentment, joy, and fulfillment. There is total shalom: a sense of sheer well-being. Every need is met, Every longing is fulfilled. Every goal is achieved. Every sense is satisfied. We see him. We are with him. He holds us and hugs us and whispers, ‘This is forever.’”

Donald Macleod

GATHERING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Call to Worship

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jason, Erika, Charlotte, and Caroline Hawkins
Jeremiah 31:31-34

Joy to the World

What a Beautiful Name

Call to Confession

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 divided by conflict.

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

God With Us

Children ages 3 years - 2nd grade are dismissed to their worship class.

Welcome and Prayers of the People

John Harrison

Offering and Doxology

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Life Together

David Speakman

ATTENDING TO GOD’S WORD

“Why Bother?: The Best Is Yet To Come!”

David Speakman

¹ In the seventh month, on the twenty-first day of the month, the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, ² “Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to all the remnant of the people, and say, ³ ‘Who is left among you who saw this house in its former glory? How do you see it now? Is it not as nothing in your eyes? ⁴ Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, ⁵ according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not. ⁶ For thus says the LORD of hosts: Yet once more, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land. ⁷ And I will shake all nations, so that the treasures of all nations

shall come in, and I will fill this house with glory, says the LORD of hosts. ⁸ The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, declares the LORD of hosts. ⁹ The latter glory of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts. And in this place I will give peace, declares the LORD of hosts.”

Haggai 2: 1-9

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

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

Children return to join their families

FEASTING AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Leader: Therefore let us proclaim the mystery of the faith.

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

Lord's Supper Instructions

- The Lord's Supper is open to anyone who is trusting in Jesus' death and resurrection alone for his or her redemption.
- People come forward from the back rows first to receive the elements.
- White grape juice in cups and gluten free crackers are available at the left and right stations.
- At the middle station, you may receive from the common loaf and cup. We follow the practice of intinction where you dip the bread in the wine.
- If you need prayer, there is a group (including elders) available to pray for anyone in need of prayer in the kitchen. There is also a group of women in the room next to the Connections kiosk who can pray for women. The Lord's Supper is available in both prayer rooms.
- Young children who have made a profession of faith may partake in the Lord's Supper when they have met with and been approved by the Session.

Prayer for Those Struggling with Sin

Lord Jesus, grant that I may see in you the fulfillment of all my need and may turn from every false satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely, and run with perseverance the race set before me, looking to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

Prayer for Those Searching for the Truth

Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the

cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

ENGAGING GOD'S WORLD

You are Holy (Prince of Peace)

Benediction

“The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord makes his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”

Numbers 6:24-26