

WORSHIP GUIDE

Thursday, December 24, 2020

5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.*

Isaiah 9:2

PRELUDE

Amy Mulder, Piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born! **Glorify him!**

Christ has come down from heaven! **Receive him!**

Christ is now on earth! **Exalt him!**

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Praise him with joy, O nations,

for he has been glorified! **Amen.**

JOY TO THE WORLD

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748 (1719) | Tune: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason (1848)
Public Domain

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King.

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

Text: John F. Wade (1743), Trans: Frederick Oakeley (1841)

Tune : ADESTE FIDELES, John F. Wade (1743) Public Domain

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 heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!”

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Hebrews 1:1-3 | John 1:1-5, 9, 14

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

“An Unexpected Family”

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY

Text: Cecil F. Alexander (1848) | Tune: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett (1849) Public Domain

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all;
and his shelter was a stable,

and his cradle was a stall:
with the poor, and meek, and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern,
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak, and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew:
and he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above:
and he leads his children on
to the place where he has gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

"An Unexpected Process"

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893 | Tune: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908
Public Domain

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.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

“An Undeserved Sacrifice”

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 | Tune: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th c.
Public Domain

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!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail for Word made flesh,
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.

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

“Celebrate! Share the Good News!”

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Text: French, 18th c. | Tune: GLORIA, French, 18th c.
Arranger: Edward S. Barnes (1937) Public Domain

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
(“Glory to God in the highest”)

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Text: Charles Wesley (1739, alt.) | Tune: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn (1840)
Adapted by William H. Cummings (1856) Public Domain

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 the angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Please tip your unlit candle toward the lit candle.

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

Text: Joseph Mohr (1818), Trans. John F. Young (1863)

Tune: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber (1818) Public Domain

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,
heavenly 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."