

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 25, 2016

*To protect the Worship environment,
please, no drinks in the Sanctuary, and remember to turn off cell phones.*

THE ENTRANCE INTO THE WORSHIP OF GOD

*#133 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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

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.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

TEXT: Charles Wesley, altered MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn; arranged by William H. Cummings

*THE SILENCE TO REFLECT UPON THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

*THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

*THE RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Isaiah 9:6-7

LEADER: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**ALL: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

LEADER: Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

**ALL: on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and
with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

LEADER: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*#213 (Trinity) 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.

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 the 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.

TEXT: William C. Dix MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th century

THE WELCOME

THE FIRST LESSON

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:4-7

THE MEDITATION: Christ Has Come

*How Deep the Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon the cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Words and Music by Stuart Townend ©1995 Thankyou Music. Administered worldwide by worshiptogether.com Songs except for the UK and Europe which is administered by Kingsway Music. ARR UBP.CCLI#245668

THE SECOND LESSON

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: Acts 1:1-11

THE MEDITATION: Christ is Coming Again

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion

(chorus)

We will feast in the house of Zion
We will sing with our hearts restored
He has done great things, we will say together
We will feast and weep no more

We will not be burned by the fire
He is the LORD our God
We are not consumed, by the flood
Upheld, protected, gathered up

(repeat chorus)

In the dark of night, before the dawn
My soul, be not afraid
For the promised morning, oh how long?
Oh God of Jacob, be my strength

(repeat chorus)

Every vow we've broken and betrayed
You are the Faithful one
And from the garden to the grave
Bind us together, bring shalom.

(repeat chorus 2x)

Sandra McCracken and Joshua Moore © 2015 Drink Your Tea (ASCAP) /
Joshmooreownsthis Music (ASCAP) ARR.ICS.UBP.CCLI#245668

THE THIRD LESSON

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 9:15b

THE MEDITATION: Hallelujah!

*Immortal, Invisible

Immortal, You are not like a man
That You change Your mind, or change Your plan.
Invisible, our human eyes can't see
The depth of Your majesty

(chorus)

You're the God of forever and ever amen!
The Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End
We sing Hallelujah, we worship in awe
Immortal, Invisible God

Immortal, You are not bound by death
You're the living God, my very breath
Invisible, You are not bound by space
But Your glory is filling this place
Yes, Your glory is filling this place
(repeat chorus)

Immortal, yet You once died for me
To pay my debt, to set me free
Invisible, You will not always be
Cause You're coming to reign as our King
And the saints will fall down at Your feet

(repeat chorus 2x)

©2007 Laura Story & Ed Cash Elvington/Brentwood Benson CCLI#245668

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND DEDICATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Although giving is a significant part of worship, we do not collect the offering during our service. Two boxes are placed by the doors to receive your offering. Tithes and offerings for the General Fund are placed in the box without the "steeple." Offerings for the Building Fund are to be placed in the box with the "steeple," with check payable to Grace EPC Building Fund.

It is our sincere desire to pray effectively for the particular needs of those worshipping with us this morning. If you have a prayer concern that you want shared with the congregation during the prayers of the people, please call the church office or one of the elders prior to the service with your request.

THE DISMISSAL

***THE BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

***ALL: Christ has come. Christ is coming again. Halleluah!**

***#125 Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let men 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 sins and sorrows 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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts MUSIC: George Frederick Handel, arranged by Lowell Mason

*Congregation will stand.