



Online Worship Resource

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **On Jordon's Bank the Baptist's Cry** Arr. H. Hopson

On Jordon's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand; our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.

O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

Jane Kerr, Organist

Candle Lighting Liturgy

Gene & Heidi

Please join us in the responsive Candle lighting liturgy:

Advent celebrates the season of peace.

In the midst of all the struggles of our daily lives, God sends us a message of peace.

But peace is not the absence of conflict.

Peace is the assurance that justice has been accomplished.

The scripture reminds us that the Prince of Peace will come from God.

The Messiah, declared the One who brings peace by the song of the angels, will come again to proclaim peace in our midst.

And the lion and the lamb will lie down together.

And there will be no difference between the peoples of all nations.

Peace, accompanied by justice, will make us one with the Prince of Peace who is the center of our hope, our faith, our love.

Opening Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”

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

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

Scripture calls us to turn from sinful ways and return to God, who offers mercy and pardon. Trusting in that mercy, let us call upon God who is near to us and hears our plea. Let us pray...

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have grown complacent in our response to your love. You set before us a rich feast of blessing, but we are drawn to lesser things that cannot satisfy. You call us to attend to urgent needs in the world, but we indulge our own desires. Our ways are not your ways; our thoughts do not ascend to your thoughts. Forgive us when we fall short of your claim upon our lives. Disturb our complacency and quicken our desire for a more fruitful life. Be patient, we pray, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you intend us to be.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God's love is sure and steadfast, always providing a way out, a way through, a way back to God.

Receiving the mercy of God, made manifest in Jesus Christ, in gratitude and joy we walk the way of Christ. Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

God of Wisdom, send your Holy Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with your light that we may more wholly trust the work you are doing in our lives and in our world. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Special Music: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Steve Hoffman, harmonica, Mark Walters, mandolin

Sermon The Miracle of the Method Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn After Sermon: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks“

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone
around.

The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a
manger laid.

All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
Good will to all from highest heaven, begin and never cease, begin and never
cease.

Call for offering

(Liturgist)

Grateful for the privilege of bearing the message of the Gospel to the world, let us be mindful of how God uses our gifts to accomplish God's good and eternal purposes. Please pray with me. . . .

Prayer of Dedication

For the sake of your kingdom and the spread of the Good News of Jesus Christ, we offer our lives and our gifts to you, O God. Thank you for giving us your work to do and for the gift of your Spirit to empower our efforts. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and 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.

Closing Hymn: "The First Noel"

The first Noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay,

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;

And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
(Refrain)

The star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,

And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
(Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude:

O Come, All Ye Faithful (duet)

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!

(Refrain) O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Very God, begotten, not created! (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing, in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Steve Hoffman, harmonica, Mark Walters, mandolin,
Gene Kendall & Heidi Christensen, Liturgists and
Gene Kendall, technology team