

The Kingdom of God

THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF LUKE



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, January 2, 2022)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

Caravan of the Magi
(Approach and departure)
Jane Kerr, Organist

J. H. Maunder

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Glenn Fahrig, Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in our responsive Call to Worship:

We have come from different backgrounds on various roads to get here.

But we are all here seeking an encounter with the Holy.

Let us listen for the promise of God's steadfast love and God's faithfulness.

We are listening for God's call in our lives. Let us worship!

Opening Hymn: "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God"

I sing a song of the saints of God, patient and brave and true,
who toiled and fought and lived and died for the Lord they loved and knew.
And one was a doctor, and one was a queen, and one was a shepherdess on
the green:
they were all of them saints of God, and I mean, God helping, to be one too.

They loved their Lord so dear, so dear, and God's love made them strong;
and they followed the right, for Jesus' sake, the whole of their good lives long.
And one was a soldier, and one was a priest, and one was slain by a fierce
wild beast:
and there's not any reason, no, not the least, why I shouldn't be one too.

They lived not only in ages past; there are hundreds of thousands still;
the world is bright with the joyous saints who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in
shops, or at tea;
for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.

Passing of the Peace

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Pastoral Prayer

Children's Time

Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders:

Jonathan Jelsma, Vallerie Pringle, Jane Kerr, John Kerr, and
Margaret Yeboah

Hymn: "Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

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

O God, into a realm of priests and kings you sent your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear what is revealed to us in holy scripture. Fill us today with new understanding and fresh desire to follow you in all we do. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:41-52

⁴¹ Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹ He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

Middle Hymn: "Come, Share the Lord"

We gather here in Jesus' name; his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;

For through the loving Son the Father makes us one:

Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here; everyone belongs.

Finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here; he breaks the bread; the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;

the one we love the most is now our gracious host:

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

We are now a family, of which the Lord is head.

Though unseen, he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;

now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:

come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

Call for offering

(Liturgist)

Christ has lavished upon us the riches of his grace. Therefore, let us offer our lives and the fruits of our labor to God. Please pray with me the prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, your goodness to us is beyond the reaches of our imagination, a fullness of love that embraces all of life. From you we have received grace upon grace. Accept our offering for the sake of the world. All that we have is yours, and all we return to you is but a reflection of your love for us. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

To Share in the Lord's Supper

Call to Confession

God calls us to speak the truth, even when it is difficult, to others but most especially to ourselves. Confessing our sin in prayer, we dare to speak the truth about ourselves to God, trusting that we will receive mercy, wisdom, and new life. Let us pray together. . .

Prayer of Confession

God of Wisdom, we confess that too often we are reluctant to hear your truth and allow it to shape our lives. We grow comfortable with the way things are, passively condoning injustice as we continue the status quo. We see ourselves as “insiders,” excluding those we consider “outsiders.” Forgive us, Lord, for being timid disciples. Empty us of fear and shame, and fill us with love that is humble and wise and kind. In the name of Christ, we pray.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

God's word does not come to condemn us, but to make us wise, reviving our souls and rejoicing our hearts.

God's Word has been fulfilled among us in Jesus Christ, who sets us free to live in the joy of being forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise. . . .

(Sanctus)

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

Prayer after Communion

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: "Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn a way.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Benediction

Postlude:

Auld Lang Syne

Traditional Scottish folk song

Today's Worship Participants:

*Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, David Maley, piano,
Glenn Fahrig, liturgist and technology team*