



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, December 26, 2021)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light** School/Bach

*Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning.
You shepherds, shudder not with fright, but hear the angel's warning.
This child now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.*

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

John Kerr, Liturgist

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

Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!

Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth, peace for all people. Alleluia!

Opening Hymn: "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
You, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

All creation join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!

Call to Confession (Liturgist)

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin before God and one another. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age--worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent and ungodly ways. Redeem us and cleanse us, we pray, through Christ, your great gift to us that we might be your holy and whole people.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news of great joy which is for all people:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people of the earth! Amen.

Response: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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 the Prayer for Illumination:

Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all. Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit, that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our lives and in our world. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Sermon

The Unused Gift

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Middle Hymn: "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

Oh, Star of Wonder, Star of Night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold him arise, God and King and sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Jesus Christ has shown us how to live: loving God and neighbor, sharing what we have, engaging in acts of mercy and justice. Let us celebrate Christ's birth and wait in hope for his coming again, by giving generously, that the work of God's kingdom may continue. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Dedication

God of every good and perfect gift, we thank you for your greatest gift, Jesus the Christ. In this season when so many gifts have been given and received, we pray that you will receive the gifts we now offer. Use them according to your purposes and plans, bringing your good news of great joy to all people. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People 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: "He Came Down"

He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love;

He came down that we may have love; Hallelujah forevermore.

....that we may have light

....that we may have peace

....that we may have joy

Benediction

Postlude:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
(Piano / organ duet)

Arr. Fred Boch

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, John Kerr, liturgist and Glenn Fahrig,
technology team