



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, December 19, 2021)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude:

AT THE MANGER

W. Kirkpatrick

Piano / Organ duet

Jane Kerr, Organist and David Maley, Pianist

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Call to Worship

Gene Kendall, Jr., Liturgist

Please stand as you are led and join me in the Advent Call to Worship:

Not in the mighty places of power, but in Bethlehem, in a room out back:

The Messiah is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

The Messiah is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

The Messiah is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

The Messiah is coming.

Opening Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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.

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

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

In this season there are many claims on our lives. In this moment of quiet and reflection, we remember that in our baptism, Christ claimed us as his own. We acknowledge before God and one another that we have not followed Jesus with all our heart and mind and strength. Trusting in God's grace, we make our confession. Let us pray. . .

Prayer of Confession

God of wonder, you surround us with signs of your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels you place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make yourself known, that we

might be witnesses to your good news and proclaim your extravagant love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Sisters and brothers, receive the good news: the light of Christ shines in our darkness, to bring light and life to all.

By the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Glory in excelsis Deo!

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 together the Prayer for Illumination:

Astonishing God, send your Spirit upon us as we await the coming of your Son. Fill us with good things that we may conceive your reign on earth and glorify you according to your Word. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the

house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

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

Special Music:

O Holy Night

Erika Rissi, soloist

Sermon

From Nazareth to Bethlehem

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn after Sermon:

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay, close by my forever and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Call to offering

(Liturgist)

Joining Mary's joyful song, our souls proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior. With humble and grateful hearts, we bring our offerings to God. Let us pray together the prayer of dedication. . .

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, your love is magnified in the gift of your Son, whom you so freely share with us. Bless the gifts we offer to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry in your coming reign of justice and peace. 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: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; There he lay the undefiled, to the world a stranger.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior? Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.

Angels sang about his birth; wise men sought and found him; Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing; all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger; he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.

Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story; Praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

Benediction

Postlude:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Piano / Organ duet

Arr. Fred Bock

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Erika Rissi, soloist, Gene Kendall, Jr., liturgist and
technology team