First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Contemporary Service
December 19, 2021



CONGREGATIONAL SONGS OF PRAISE

Glorious — Mark Altrogge

Verse 1
How great You are
Your greatness none can fathom
Upholding all by Your Almighty Word
The universe fulfills Your ev'ry purpose
And all You've made
Will bring You praise oh God

Chorus
You are glorious glorious
And we will lift our voices to worship You
You are glorious glorious
And we will always be in awe of You

Verse 2
You move the stars
The planets in their courses
The clouds and wind and ev'rything that moves
You hold my life
You take my joys and sorrows
And cause them all to bring glory to You

Chorus
You are glorious glorious
And we will lift our voices to worship You
You are glorious glorious
And we will always be in awe of You

Verse 3
Your ways are high
Too deep for man to fathom
But You are good and this will be my theme
You sent Your Son
To live and die for sinners
So I will trust and hope in You my King

Chorus
You are glorious glorious
And we will lift our voices to worship You
You are glorious glorious
And we will always be in awe of You

Glory In The Highest — Chris Tomlin

Verse 1
You are the first
You go before
You are the last
Lord You're the encore
Your name's in lights for all to see
The starry hosts declare Your glory

Chorus
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest

Verse 2
Apart from You
There is no God
Light of the world
The bright and morning star
Your name will shine for all to see
You are the One
You are my glory

Bridge
And no one else
Could ever compare to You Lord
All the earth together declare

Chorus 2
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest to You Lord
(REPEAT)

Verse 3
The heavenly host proclaim Your birth
Glory to God and peace beyond the earth
Your name is near Emmanuel
God with us here
God pleased with us to dwell

Chorus
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest
Glory in the highest

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING — Beste-Hartney Family

Leader: God's love is a door that is always open.
People: God's love is a beacon that guides us home.
Leader: God's love is a table with room for you.
People: God's love is a roof over our heads and a floor beneath our feet.
Leader: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers;
People: a home for family and friends; for enemies and partners.
Leader: So today we light the Candle of Love, to remind us of this truth and promise.
People: May it burn brightly in this space, and brighter in our hearts.

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING RESPONSE — #9

O Come, O Come Emmanuel — **VENI EMMANUEL**

4 O come our great High Priest and intercede
Thy sacrifice our only plea
The judgment we no longer fear
Thy precious blood has brought us near

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

SONG OF PRAISE

Here As In Heaven — **Chris Brown**

Verse 1
The atmosphere is changing now
For the Spirit of the Lord is here
The evidence is all around
That the Spirit of the Lord is here

Chorus
Overflow in this place
Fill our hearts with your love
Your love surrounds us
You're the reason we came to encounter your love
Your love surrounds us

(Instrumental)

Bridge
Spirit of God fall fresh on us
We need your presence
Your kingdom come your will be done
Here as in heaven

Verse 2
A miracle can happen now
For the Spirit of the Lord is here
The evidence is all around
That the Spirit of the Lord is here

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we wish we were more like Mary, who admitted when she needed help and sought it out from those who loved her. We wish we were more like Elizabeth, who greeted Mary with laughter and joy and cared for her in body and spirit when she was in need. Forgive us for the ways in which we keep to ourselves, neither seeking nor offering help. Give us the courage of Mary and the grace of Elizabeth, so that we may offer blessings with joy, and our souls may magnify your love.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-55 Beste-Hartney Family

SERMON "Close to Home: Bless This Mess" The Rev. J.C. Austin

SONG OF PRAISE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence **Gerard Moultrie**

Verse 1
Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing earthly minded
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
Our full homage to demand

Verse 2
King of kings yet born of Mary
As of old on earth He stood
Lord of lords in human vesture
In the Body and the Blood
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food

Verse 3
Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away

Verse 4
At His feet the six-winged seraph
Cherubim with sleepless eye
Veil their faces to the Presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry
Alleluia alleluia alleluia
Lord Most High

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.

SONG OF PRAISE

Starlight **Amanda Cook**

Verse 1
You're like starlight in the dark
Endless miles can't conceal You
Every glimmer is a spark
Catching fire as You break through

Chorus
Oh You're not far away
You come in close
Oh even as I wait
You come in close

Verse 2
You're like summer in the night
The sun goes down but still I feel You
Every shadow's turning bright
Every broken heart is made new

Chorus
Oh You're not far away
You come in close
Oh even as I wait
You come in close

(Instrumental)

Bridge
There's no heart unseen there's no space between
You and I You and I
You are closer than the very oxygen
I'm breathing in I breathe You in

You are God with us You are here with us
Immanuel Immanuel
You are infinite Your glory has no end
Jesus Jesus

(Instrumental)

Bridge
There's no heart unseen there's no space between
You and I You and I
You are closer than the very oxygen
I'm breathing in I breathe You in

You are God with us You are here with us
Immanuel Immanuel
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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE