



Foothills Presbytery Worship Service
First Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, December 26, 2021

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE *Songs for the Christ Child* Sharon Thomas, Celtic harp, Limestone, Gaffney

CALL TO WORSHIP Sophie deMaine, John Knox

One: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass. Let us go with the shepherds:

All: Let us go to find the Savior!

One: Let us go with the wise ones:

All: Let us go to find God's promise, born for us!

One: Let us go with the poor and humble:

All: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

One: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations.

All: Let us go and join the heavenly chorus, "Gloria in excelsis Deo!"

PRAYER OF ADORATION

HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Westminster, Greenville

- Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*
- Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
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.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Emma Moore, John Knox

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emma Moore, John Knox

**All: God of grace and truth, in Jesus you came among us as light shining in darkness.
We confess that we have not welcomed that light, or trusted the good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace.
Then open our lips, that we may sing your praise with the angels, and remake our lives,
that we may witness your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Emma Moore, John Knox

One: Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN #110

Love Has Come

Eastminster, Simpsonville

- Love has come, a light in the
darkness! Love explodes in the
Bethlehem skies. See, all heaven
has come to proclaim it. Hear
how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a
Savior! Love! Love! Glory to
God on high!*
- Love is born! Come share in the
wonder. Love is God now asleep
in the hay. See the glow in the
eyes of His mother. What is the
name her heart is saying? Love!
Love! Love is the name she
whispers. Love! Love! Jesus,
Immanuel.*
- Love has come, He never will
leave us! Love is life everlasting
and free. Love is Jesus within
and among us. Love is the peace
our hearts are seeking. Love!
Love! Love is the gift of
Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to
You, God on high!*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

STORY FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Ashlyn Price, Central

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Mary DuPre Pannell, Central

READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

Mary DuPre Pannell, Central

MEDITATION"Respect for the Mystery"ⁱ

Caroline Wingard, Trinity

HYMN # 136*Go, Tell in on the Mountain*

Fort Hill, Clemson

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

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| 1. <i>While shepherds kept their
watching o'er silent flocks by
night, behold, throughout the
heavens there shone a holy
light. [Refrain]</i> | 2. <i>The shepherds feared and
trembled when lo! above the
earth rang out the angel
chorus that hailed our
Savior's birth. [Refrain]</i> | 3. <i>Down in a lowly manger the
humble Christ was born, and
God sent us salvation that
blessed Christmas morn.
[Refrain]</i> |
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READING

1 Peter 1:6-9

Nevaeh Harden, Pickens

MEDITATION"Living by God's Mercy"ⁱⁱ

Kathryn Carlson, Eastminster

HYMN # 134*Joy to the World*

Nazareth, Moore

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| 1. <i>Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.</i> | 2. <i>Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</i> | 3. <i>No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.</i> |
| | | 4. <i>He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.</i> |

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Madison Ricard, Fountain Inn

MEDITATION"Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace"ⁱⁱⁱ

Gracelyn Latham, Easley

HYMN # 129*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Fourth, Greenville

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| 1. <i>Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.</i> | 2. <i>Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.</i> | 3. <i>This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God,
from sin and death he saves u
and lightens every load.</i> |
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READING

Philippians 2:5-11

Eva Grow, Fourth

MEDITATION"On the Weak Shoulders of a Child"^{iv}

Caroline Anthony, Easley

HYMN # 128*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

First, Greer

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| 1. <i>Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!</i> | 2. <i>Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!</i> |
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READING

John 1:1-14

Caleb Briley, Pickens

MEDITATION"God Became a Child"^v

Grace Short, Trinity

HYMN # 146*Gently Mary Laid Her Child*

St. Andrews, Taylors

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| <p>1. <i>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.</i></p> | <p>2. <i>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.</i></p> | <p>3. <i>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!</i></p> |
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WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS^{vi}**

Sara Cox, Nazareth

- One: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: To us is born in the city of David a Savior, a Messiah, the Lord.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.
All: Glory to God in the highest!
 One: Christ is born! Give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!
 Christ is now on earth! Exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord!
 O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Hope Watkins, Eastminster

- One: O Christ, our light,
All: hear our 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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Emily Cox, Nazareth

OFFERING MUSIC*Christmas Night*

by Kim André Arnesen

Presbyterian College Women's Ensemble -- Lucie Svatonova-Hughes, director
 Dr. Karen Buckland, piano; Dr. Giovani Briguente, flute

*We see a light on Christmas night, and see, a path now opens wide!
 The lost, the stranger calls to us: the wounded heart so needs us now.
 Alive to love, the angel's song, we'll travel where love leads.
 Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. We see a light, this joyful Christmas night.
 The faith awakes on Christmas night, and we become love's answering voice!
 The water flows, the mountains move, we see much more than ruined lives.
 Alive to love, the angel's song, we'll travel where love leads.
 Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. Our faith awakes this star-fire Christmas night.
 Let hope arise this Christmas night, our hearts made great by love's new dawn!
 A boundless love, a singing light, that fills and touches all earth's lives!
 Alive to love, the angel's song, we'll travel where love leads
 Long locked away, our deepest song now dances like a child. Let hope arise, this love-lit Christmas night.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Emily Cox, Nazareth

HYMN # 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

First, Spartanburg

1. *Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*
2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*
3. *Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

BENEDICTION AND CLOSING RESPONSE

One: Arise and shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
Go and bear witness to the light of Christ.
For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Listen, Christ has promised to be with us in the world as in our worship.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Darrell Johnson, First Simpsonville

This worship was a collaboration between the Presbytery Youth Council, Music Ministry Peer Group, and the Worship Committee.

Foothills Presbytery Youth Council

Caroline Anthony- Easley
Caleb Briley- Pickens
Kathryn Carlson- Eastminster
Emily Cox- Nazareth
Sara Cox- Nazareth
Sophie deMaine- John Knox
Max Gassner- Eastminster
Eva Grow- Fourth

Nevaeh Harden- Pickens
Gracelyn Latham- Easley
Emma Moore- John Knox
Mary DuPre Pannell- Central
Ashlyn Price- Central
Madison Ricard- Fountain Inn
Grace Short- Trinity

Hope Watkins- Eastminster
Caroline Wingard- Trinity

Adult leaders

Kelly Burnett, Easley
Joan Jones, Eastminster
Nelson Jones, Second
Becky Schafer, First Greer

Thank you to the following for providing music:

Eastminster, Simpsonville
First, Greer
First, Simpsonville

First, Spartanburg
Fort Hill, Clemson
Fourth, Greenville

Limestone, Gaffney
Nazareth, Moore
St. Andrews, Taylors

Westminster, Greenville
Presbyterian College
Women's Ensemble

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Foothills Presbytery Worship Committee

Holt Andrews, First Spartanburg
Allyson Helvie, Mt Zion
Mandy Keathley, Central

Beverly Kelly, Honorably Retired
Cynthia Sims, Eastminster
Chad Wright-Pittman, First Anderson

ⁱ Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. "God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas." Westminster John Knox, 2010. P. 18-19.

ⁱⁱ Ibid. p. 66-67

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid. "Christus Victor" address, November 26, 1939 p. 74-75

^{iv} Ibid. Bonhoeffer's letter to his parents from Tegel prison, December 17, 1943 p. 70-71

^v Ibid. Sermon to a German-speaking church in Havana, Cuba (Dec. 21, 1930), p. 58-59

^{vi} PCUSA Book of Common Worship. Westminster John Knox, 2018, p. 188.