



January 7, 2024

At Home Bulletin

CALL TO WORSHIP

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known on earth,
your saving power among all nations.

**Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you!

**The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, shall bless us.**

God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him!

INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

Joy to the World! The Lord has Come

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

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.

Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: ANTIOCH, George Frederick Handel, 1742.

As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed,
there to bend the knee before him whom heav'n and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare;
so may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly king.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

Conrad Kocher | William Chatterton Dix © Public Domain

GOD'S LAW AND OUR CONFESSION

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.” *Deuteronomy 6:4-5*

Holy God, full of glory and majesty,
**we confess that we have not loved you
with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.
We have not placed you first in our lives,
but have subsumed your mission under our own self interests.
Forgive us, O Lord.**

Creator and sustainer of all humanity,
**we have not loved each other as bearers of your image.
In putting ourselves first,
we have rejected Christ's example of a servant.
Father, forgive our pride, self-orientation, and ambition
which deny that we are free only when we follow you.
Restore to us a grasp of your glory and your goodness,
which enable us to follow after you.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

I John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Christians, what do you believe?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand
of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

RECEPTION OF OFFERINGS

PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.

O Light that follow'st all my way, I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead, and from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

Text: George Matheson (1842-1906); Music: Christopher Miner
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SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:21-38

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“The Consolation of Israel”

Pastor Ian Hard

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

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CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

*If you are following along at home, please refrain from taking
Communion as it is a form of worship meant to be celebrated
in the physical presence of the body of Christ.*

HYMN OF SENDING

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my Light, my strength, my song.
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.
My Comforter, my all in all – Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless Babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
'Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid – Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay – Light of the world by darkness slain.
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me.
From life's first cry, to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand,
'Til He returns or calls me home – Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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BENEDICTION

Sermon NOTES: The Consolation of Israel

Comfort and Peace...

In a Personal Savior

Through Faith

Which Confronts False Comforts