



December 31, 2023

At Home Bulletin

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord be with you.

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise!

INVOCATION

SONGS OF PRAISE

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, (3xs)
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created; (*refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest; (*refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father,
late in flesh appearing; (*refrain*)

Text: Attr John Francis Wade, 1751; Music: ADESTE FIDELES, John Francis Wade's *Contus Diversi*

Good Christian Men Rejoice

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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GOD'S LAW AND OUR CONFESSION

Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce,
you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured
to you. *Matthew 7:1-2*

Our Lord we confess that in you we find true freedom
but we have not lived as ambassadors of that freedom.

**Forgive us Lord for not proclaiming freedom to the captive
and liberty to the oppressed.**

**Forgive us for placing obstacles
in the path of those seeking your grace
and burdens upon the burdened.**

For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free
in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

**Lord we have not honored your instruction as the path to
contentment. Forgive us, for we ignore your law at times
and at others use it as a means of judgment and self-righteous
promotion. In you alone, Lord, is true freedom and contentment.
Forgive us for running to empty idols
in search of what only you can offer.**

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Ephesians 2:4-7

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Who is Jesus Christ?

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

What has Christ done?

**All things were created through him and for him.
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is the head of the body, the Church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be preeminent.
In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.**

Why should we follow Christ?

**He is the radiance of the glory of God
and the exact imprint of his nature,
and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
After making purification for sins,
he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
having become as much superior to angels
as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.**

-Adapted from Colossians 1:15-20 & Hebrews 1:1-4

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

Psalm 101

Tune: The Church's One Foundation

SCRIPTURE READING

John 7:53-8:12

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Light in Dark Places”

Rev. Tim Andrews

HYMN OF RESPONSE*

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. 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

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

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

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *(Refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *(Refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *(Refrain)*

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BENEDICTION

Sermon NOTES: Light in Dark Places