

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

January 3, 2021

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & COMMUNITY SHARING

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

**Before the seas were made, before you formed the world;**

From before the first one-celled organism, and after the sun's light fails;

**Before our birth, and after our death.**

Through all eternity, you are God.

**Eternal God, our lives are in your sure and tender care.**

## HYMN

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  
Verses 1 & 3

No. 31

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!"

Refrain:

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.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

The gift of God's grace is lavished upon us – poured out like water – through the life and death of the risen Lord. Trusting in the love and goodness of God, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, you have given us everything; we have failed to respond with gratitude. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your Word; we answer with empty promises. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your light; we try to hide ourselves from your glory. In Jesus Christ, you have given us your life; even this precious gift we have not received.

Have mercy on us, O God; forgive us. In Jesus Christ, give us the faith and power to become what you created us to be: beloved children, full of grace and truth. **Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's promise, the sign and seal of your redemption: You have been called by God, claimed in Christ, set free through the Spirit. Believe this good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

Let us gather up the gifts of the Lord, who fills us with a rich feast, turning our mourning into joy. With thanksgiving, let us offer our lives to God, the giver of life.

*You may mail your offering to the church office, or you may give online through our website, [cazpres.org](http://cazpres.org).*

**DOXOLOGY**

No. 592

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.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We give you thanks, God of all creation, for the power of your life-giving Word, making the winds blow and the waters flow. Receive these gifts from our hands, and use them to bring peace and blessing to all your children; in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

**HYMN**

"Down to Earth, as a Dove"

No. 300

1 Down to earth, as a dove,  
 Came to light holy love:  
 Jesus Christ from above  
 Bringing great salvation  
 Meant for every nation.

Refrain:

Let us sing, sing, sing,  
 Dance and spring, spring, spring,  
 Christ is here, Ever near!  
 Gloria in excelsis.

2 This is love come to light,  
 Now is fear put to flight.  
 God defeats darkest night,  
 Giving for our sorrows  
 Hope of new tomorrows.

3 Christ the Lord comes to feed  
 Hungry people in need;  
 In the house there is bread:  
 Jesus in a stable,  
 In the church a table.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Shine upon us, God of glory, and by your Spirit reveal to us the grace and truth of Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:7-14**

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,  
 and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;  
 proclaim, give praise, and say,  
 "Save, O LORD, your people,  
 the remnant of Israel."

<sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,  
 and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,  
 among them the blind and the lame,  
 those with child and those in labor, together;  
 a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come,  
 and with consolations<sup>[a]</sup> I will lead them back,  
 I will let them walk by brooks of water,  
 in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;  
 for I have become a father to Israel,  
 and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
 and declare it in the coastlands far away;  
 say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,  
 and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
 and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,  
 and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,  
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
 and over the young of the flock and the herd;  
 their life shall become like a watered garden,  
 and they shall never languish again.

<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,  
 and the young men and the old shall be merry.  
 I will turn their mourning into joy,

I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.  
**14** I will give the priests their fill of fatness,  
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,  
says the LORD.

**GOSPEL:** John 1:10-18

**10** He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. **11** He came to what was his own,<sup>[a]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. **12** But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, **13** who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**14** And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[b]</sup> full of grace and truth. **15** (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") **16** From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. **17** The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **18** No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,<sup>[c]</sup> who is close to the Father's heart,<sup>[d]</sup> who has made him known.

**SERMON** "Neighborhood Pot-Luck"

**HYMN**

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

No. 29

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light.

2 The shepherds feared and trembled,  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angels chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth.

3 Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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