



*During this time of social distancing, we ask that all singing and responsive reading be done from behind a mask.
Thank you for doing your part to keep yourself and others safe during the pandemic.*

Prelude

Introit

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

Mays

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Fred and Ann Kate

Let us pray:

God of hope, and Lord of love, your goodness is beyond our wildest imaginings. You give us more than we can think to ask, coming to us with impossible possibility in the union of flesh and spirit. Teach us to love this world and all people as you love us in Jesus Christ our Lord. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come. Amen.

Call to Worship

*Hymn #23

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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

*Prayer of Confession

Mighty and merciful God: by your word you have created us, by your son Jesus Christ you have redeemed us, and by your Spirit you have called us to be one people. We confess to you our sin. We doubt your promises and disobey your commandments. Cleanse us by your power and renew us with faith, that we may live joyful and obedient lives. In Christ's name, we pray.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the Good News.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Congregational Response

Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Silent Night
FPC Handbell Choir

Eithun

*Hymn #592

The Doxology

*Prayer of Commitment and the Lord's 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.

*Choral Response

Anthem

The Redeemer Will Come

Angermann/Barrett

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:1-6

¹ Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek.

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ And he shall be their peace.

When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men; ⁶ they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border.

Children's Time

*Hymn #66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. (Refrain)

5. Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-12

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Sermon

Songs of the Season We Three Kings

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy." (Matthew 2:10)

*Affirmation of Faith

Excerpted from the Scots Confession (1560), Chapter 6

When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal Wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin and that by means of the Holy Spirit. And so was born the "just seed of David," the "Angel of the great counsel of God," the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, very God and very man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #40

Joy to the World!

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. 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.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

4. 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.

***Postlude**

*Please stand if able.

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Loving God • Investing in People • Living Generously