



Welcome

Order of Worship

December 27, 2020

10:00 a.m. Service

***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

Safely Through Another Year

Mason/Newton

Call to Worship

***Hymn #446**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken, formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded, what can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded, Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
2. See, the streams of living waters, springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver, never fails from age to age.
3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

***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

***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

Come, Lord and Be With Us

Stanford/Wagner

Scripture Reading

John 7:37-44

³⁷ On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.

³⁸ Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

³⁹ Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

⁴⁰ When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This really is the Prophet."

⁴¹ Others said, "This is the Christ."

But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? ⁴² Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?"

⁴³ So there was a division among the people over him. ⁴⁴ Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

***Hymn #554**

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

2. By law God enforces. The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

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.

*Hymn #44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Sermon

Songs of the Season: O Little Town of Bethlehem

“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.” (Micah 5:2)

*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 #423**

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
3. People and realms of every tongue dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns; the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let every creature rise and bring honors peculiar to our King;
Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud Amen!

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

You are Mine

I will come to you in the silence. I will lift you from all your fear.
You will hear My voice, I claim you as My choice.
Be still, and know I am near.

***Postlude**

*Please stand if able.

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