

Worship Leader Edition

December 26, 2021

10:00 AM

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

+GATHERING SONG

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ELW #279

Verse 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.

Verse 3

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming;
But, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

Verse 2

For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king,
And peace to all the earth!

Verse 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;
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

+GREETING *{Front Center} (Mollee Erickson)*

L: The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY *{Front Center} (Mollee Erickson)*

L: Everlasting God, the radiance of all faithful people, you brought the nations to the brightness of your rising. Fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all the world through him who is the true light and the bright morning star, your Son Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+SHARING OF THE PEACE *{Front Center} Mollee Erickson)*

Please share of wave of peace with one another.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *{Front Center} (Rob)*

WORD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *{On Floor Pulpit Side} (Emily)*

FIRST READING *(Jodi Murphy)*

Galatians 5:13-18

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-18

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Pastor Rob Norris-Weber

+SONG OF THE DAY

"It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

ELW #282

Verse 1

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all,
From heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 3

And you, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing;
Oh, rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing!

Verse 2

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav'nly music floats
O'er all the weary world.
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing,
And ever o'er its babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Verse 4

For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold,
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

+THE APOSTLES' CREED {Front Center} Mollee Erickson)

Screen

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

+THE PRAYERS *{Front Center}* (Mollee Erickson)

Screen

After each petition:

L: Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

+THE LORD'S PRAYER *{Front Center}* (Mollee Erickson)

Screen

C: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

TIME OF REFLECTION AND RESPONSE *{Front Center}* (Mollee Erickson)

L: We invite you to take this time of reflection and response to complete your Welcome Card, share any interests or prayer concerns and prepare your offering. Cards and offering can be put in the collection plate as you leave worship out the main doors or by the exit on your left side (motion to offering plate).

SENDING

+BENEDICTION (*Pastor Rob*)

L: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen and lead us, to live graciously as your people. In the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

+CLOSING SONG

“Go Tell It on the Mountain

John Wesley Work/John Carlson

Verse 1

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

Well the shepherds feared and trembled
When lo above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth

Chorus

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

Verse 2

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

Chorus

Instrumental

Chorus (two times)

Ending

That Jesus Christ is born

+DISMISSAL *{Front Center}*(Mollee Erickson)

L: Follow the Light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

REPRISE