

Bulletin for Worship

December 6th, 2020

Glory to God Hymnal #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (vs. 1 & 2)

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.

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.

TEXT: Phillips Brooks, 1868

MUSIC (ST. LOUIS 8.6.8.6.7.6.8.6): Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

Glory to God Hymnal #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (vs. 1 & 2)

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, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

TEXT: Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1849, alt.

MUSIC (CAROL, CMD): Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle

Braatz Family

Hymn: Glory to God Hymnal #106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Prepare the way, O Zion,
your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley
a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory,
foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

He brings God's rule, O Zion;
he comes from heaven above.
His rule is peace and freedom,
and justice, truth, and love.
Lift high your praise resounding,
for grace and joy abounding.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion;
your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation
proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing,
their adoration voicing.
O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

*TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958; adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.;
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MUSIC (BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain): Then Svenska Psalmboken, 1697;
arr. American Lutheran Hymnal, 1930, All rights reserved. First Presbyterian Church, FDL, WI OneLicense #A-730666*

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

O Lord, reach into the dark depths of our fear and anguish. We need Your guidance this day, for we have found it far too easy to stray into selfish pathways. We seek first our own comfort; we gather our toys and trinkets and complain about all that is wrong with the world, yet we do little to seek Your peace. Guide us and gather us, Lord. Teach us again to be people of peace and hope. Help us to cast off the mantle of greed and hatred. Forgive us for the many times when we have ignored the cries of those in need; when we have turned our backs on opportunities to help others. Forgive us, Lord. Touch our hearts and bring Your bright light of salvation to them that we might turn again to you and in Your love may be part of ministries of peace and justice. Help us again to hear the voice of one who cries in the wilderness,

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. Amen.

Take a few moments to offer your own silent confession.

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

Kim Braatz

God’s forgiving love has been poured upon all of us. Hear the good news! We have been healed and forgiven!

Through the gift of God’s grace and the forgiveness that comes from Jesus our Lord and Savior, we have been set free to share the peace of God’s reign with all of the world.

Glory to God Hymnal #583 “Gloria, Gloria”

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

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Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

¹ Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:
‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵ Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’

⁶ A voice says, ‘Cry out!’
And I said, ‘What shall I cry?’
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
'Here is your God!'

¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Mark 1:1-8

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight" ', ⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

Message: "Our Confidence is the Word of the Lord "
Prayer

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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned 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. Amen.

Sending: Glory to God Hymnal #163 "Wild and lone the Prophet's Voice"

Wild and lone the prophet's voice
echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice,
bidding us to do God's will:
"Turn from sin and be baptized;
cleanse your heart and mind and soul.
Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows:
lives of justice, truth and love.
Trust no other claim than those;
set your heart on things above.
Soon the Lord will come in power,
burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour;
wheat alone shall fill God's store."

With such preaching, stark and bold,
John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold
words of hope to all who hear.
So we dare to journey on,
led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John
to behold the Lamb of God.

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Benediction