

Bulletin for Worship

December 13th, 2020

Glory to God Hymnal #140 “Once in Royal David’s City” (vs 1-2)

Once in royal David’s city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

TEXT: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1848, alt.

MUSIC (IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7): Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur Henry Mann, 1919

Glory to God Hymnal #122 “Silent Night, Holy Night” (vs 1-2)

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”

TEXT: Joseph Mohr, 1816; stanzas 1–3, English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863;

stanza 4, English trans. Jane Montgomery Campbell, 1863, alt.; Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

MUSIC (STILLE NACHT, Irregular): Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Peyton T. and Paige T.

This morning we light the candles of Hope and Peace, and we light the third candle, Joy, marking that our time of preparation is now half over. **(light the 3 candles)** The time for the coming of God’s anointed one is drawing short. Are we ready to receive him? It is God’s desire that we receive the good news of the coming of Christ with joy, and that is why we light the candle of joy this morning. “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.”

Are we prepared to receive the news of great joy? Let us prepare our hearts so that we also may rejoice in the joy and confidence of knowing that Christ is coming soon.

Let us pray:

God of unending joy, fill our hearts with the celebration of your coming that caused the angels to overflow with song. Fill us with type of awe and worship that caused the shepherds to want to rush and see what you have accomplished. Fill us with your presence so that we may abide in your love. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Messiah we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Glory to God Hymnal #100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
(Canticle of the Turning)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

(Refrain)

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. *(refrain)*

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep
no more, for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. *(refrain)*

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:

God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp
This saving word that our
forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. *(refrain)*

TEXT: Rory Cooney, 1990; © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

*MUSIC (STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN, Irregular): Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990; arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. First Presbyterian Church, FDL 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 bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners. We long to take part in Your work of healing and justice. 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

God's forgiving love has been poured upon each of us. Hear the good news! You have been healed and forgiven!

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Glory to God Hymnal #583 "Gloria, Gloria"

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Copyright © 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (France). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Chicago, Illinois, exclusive agent. All rights reserved. First Presbyterian Church, FDL OneLicense #A-730666

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

^{61:1} The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the broken-hearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1:46b-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Message: "Daring to Dream of Redemption "

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 #852 "When the Lord Redeems the Very Least"

When the Lord redeems the very least,
we will rejoice.

When the hungry gather for the feast,
we will rejoice.

(refrain)

We will rejoice with gladness.

We will rejoice.

All our days we'll sing to God in praise.

We will rejoice!

When the Lord restores the sick and weak,
we will rejoice.

When the earth is given to the meek,
we will rejoice. *(refrain)*

When the Lord revives the world from death,
we will rejoice.

When the word of God fills every breath,
we will rejoice. *(refrain)*

When the Lord returns in victory,
we will rejoice.

When we live in glorious liberty,
we will rejoice. *(refrain)*

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, c. 1991; © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

MUSIC (I'LL FLY AWAY 9.4.9.4 with refrain): Albert E. Brumley, 1932; arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton, c. 2001;

© 1932 Hartford Music Co., ren. 1960 Albert E. Brumley & Sons (admin. ClearBox Rights)

All rights reserved. First Presbyterian Church, FDL OneLicense #A-730666

Benediction