

Bulletin for Worship

December 27th, 2020

Call to Worship

Dave Erickson

Arise! Shine! The light you have been waiting for is here! Darkness has been banished!
God's light of hope floods the earth God's light comes to us all.

Lord, make us ready to journey to this Light. Prepare our hearts to receive this Light.

Hymn: Glory to God Hymnal #744 "Arise, Your Light is Come!"

Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captives' liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the brokenhearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974, © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

MUSIC (FESTAL SONG, SM): William Walter, 1894

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Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Teach us to live as those who have been loved and blessed, rather than to be fearful and timid. Let our celebration of Your gift of salvation be in our joy and singing as we serve You as Christians, Serving, Learning and Loving, Amen.

Take a few moments to offer your own silent confession.

Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness

God forgives all. Now may we live differently, centered on God's desire for deep relationship with each and all of us.

May we receive this gift of grace with joy, and may it stir within our hearts a new beginning, so that we may live in the fullness of God's love. Amen.

Sung Response: "#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (chorus only)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

TEXT: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860, alt.

MUSIC (GLORIA 7.7.7.7 with refrain): French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; © 1937, ren. 1965 H. Augustine Smith Jr. (admin. Fleming H. Revell Company, a div. of Baker Publishing Group)

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Special Music: "Birthday of a King"

Carol Wetzel

In the little village of Bethlehem
There lay a Child one day
And the sky was bright with a holy light
O'er the place where Jesus lay.

(Refrain)

Alleluia! O how the angels sang
Alleluia! How it rang!
And the sky was bright with a holy light
'Twas the birthday of a King.

'Twas a humble birthplace, but O how much
God gave to us that day
From the manger bed what a path has led
What a perfect, holy way. *(Refrain)*

written (words and music) by William Neidlinger in 1890.

Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Message: "Awakening to Signs of New Life "

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 #545 "Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

Lord, bid your servant go in peace;

your word is now fulfilled.

These eyes have seen

salvation's dawn,

this child so long foretold.

This is the Savior of the world,
the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst,
the joy of Israel.

TEXT: James Quinn, SJ, 1969; © 1969 James Quinn SJ

*MUSIC (LAND OF REST, CM): American folk melody; arr. Annabel Morris Buchanan, 1938;
arr. © 1938, ren. H. W. Gray Company (admin. Alfred Music Publishing)*

Benediction