

# Bulletin for Worship

## January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

### **Call to Worship**

*Pete Wills*

In these dark days, the Light of Christ shines brightly. In the midst of our anxiousness and fear, the peace of God is promised. We gather to worship God because it is in the presence of God that we are shown what is dependable and true, that God's love came into the world.  
**We gather together to worship Christ, the King of Peace.**

### **Hymn: Glory to God #396 "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship"**

Brethren, we have met to worship  
and adore the Lord our God.  
Will you pray with all your power  
while we try to preach the word?  
All is vain unless the Spirit  
of the holy One comes down.  
Brethren, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us?  
Moses' sister aided him.  
Will you help the trembling mourners  
who are struggling hard with sin?  
Tell them all about the Savior.  
Tell them that he will be found.  
Sisters, pray, and holy manna  
will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer,  
seeking grace and filled with fears?  
Is there here a weeping Mary  
pouring forth a flood of tears?  
Brethren, join your cries to help them;  
sisters, let your prayers abound!  
Pray, O pray, that holy manna  
will be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely;  
let us love each other, too.  
Let us love and pray for sinners  
till our God makes all things new.  
Christ will call us home to heaven;

at his table we'll sit down.  
Christ will gird himself and serve us  
with sweet manna all around.

*TEXT: George Atkins, 1819, alt.*

*MUSIC (HOLY MANNA 8.7.8.7.D): Columbian Harmony, 1825; harm. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011; harm. © 2011 Alfred V. Fedak*

## **Prayer of Adoration**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Jesus our Lord and Savior, 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 focus on what does not matter and complain about all that is wrong with the world, yet we do little to seek Your peace. Guide 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. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we offer this prayer. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Hope and Forgiveness**

Hear the Good News and be confident in this, Christ came into the world to save people from their sin and guilt. Jesus does not condemn us, so neither should we. Instead let us offer forgiveness and grace to everyone, including ourselves.

**Thanks be to God for forgiveness and grace. 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 Readings: Ephesians 1:3-14**

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had

believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

**Special Music: "In the Beginning" by Joel Payne**

*CCLI Song # 7027019*

*Joel Payne © 2014 Joel Payne - RESOUNDworship.org (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd)*

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**John 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."8i) <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Message: "The Power to be Our True Selves"**  
**Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's 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 Hymn: Glory to God Hymnal #110 "Love Has Come"**

Love has come: a light in the darkness!

Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;

Hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love!

Born unto you, a Savior!

Love! Love!

Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love!  
Love is the name she whispers.  
Love! Love!  
Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love!  
Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love!  
Praise to you, God on high!

*TEXT: Ken Bible, 1996, © 1996 LNWhymns.com (admin. Music Services)*

*MUSIC (BRING A TORCH 9.9.10.9.9.8): French melody; arr. Eric T. Myers, 2012; © 2012 Eric T. Myers*

## **Benediction**