

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Christ the King Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2011

10:00 p. m.

Christian Year: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Preparation for Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60:1

Could it be true, this Bethlehem story of a Creator descending to be born on one small planet? If so, it is a story like no other. Little wonder a choir of angels broke out in spontaneous song, disturbing not only a few shepherds but the entire universe.

Philip Yancey

What did Jesus Jesus truly bring, if he didn't bring peace to the world, well-being for all and a better world? The answer is very simple: God. He brought God.

Pope Benedict XVI

All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are
thine alone.

A little child, thou art our guest,
that weary ones in thee may rest;
forlorn and lowly is thy birth,
that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

Martin Luther

*Call to Worship

from Psalm 98

The Rev. P. Clay Holland

Minister: Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!

**People: His right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.**

Minister: The LORD has made known his salvation;
he has revealed his righteousness before the nations.

**People: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
to his people.
All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.**

*Joy to the World

Hymn No. 195

ANTIOCH

*Prayer of Adoration

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine
with the brightness of the true Light;
Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth,
may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven;
where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns,
one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*Congregation stands

*The Lord pronounces judgment upon Satan and promises
the Redeemer to come from the seed of the woman*

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
all the nations of the earth will be blessed*

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Hymn No. 194 (Stanzas 1, 4-5)

VENI EMMANUEL

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Donna Sims

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.
You have enlarged the nation;
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.
For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.
Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and with righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Hymn No. 196

HYFRYDOL

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Rachel and Sam Huisman

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Christ Candle

Monika and Kenny DuBose

Lighting the Advent wreath originated in Germany, based on a Roman custom of the ceremonial entrance of a ruler to a province or city as his 'advent' (from the Latin adventus, meaning 'arrival'). One candle is lit the first Sunday of Advent, two are lit the second Sunday, etc. Each of the candles has special significance. The final candle, the Christ candle, is lit at Christmas.

***O Come, All Ye Faithful**
Hymn No. 208 (Stanzas 1-3)

ADESTE FIDELES

***The Peace of God**

Leader: Come to us; abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel!
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Offering

The Angel Gabriel

Basque carol

The Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-3

A.J. Hergenroeder

The future glory for God's people is revealed

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.

The Sermon

"He Is Coming"
Behold, He Comes!

Clay Holland

What Child Is This

Hymn No. 213

GREENSLEEVES

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Michelle and Rob Hays

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Hymn No. 216

W ZLOBIE LEZY

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Jenny and John Seo

The shepherds go to the manger

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in

swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

MENDELSSOHN

Hymn No. 203

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion is an opportunity for all of us to seek the Lord. It is an occasion for baptized Christians to be strengthened by our Savior. All who trust alone in Christ as Savior and Lord, belong to (and are in good standing with) a church that embraces the Gospel, live at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully are welcome to come forward. If you are not a Christian, please consider spending this time in prayer using the prayers printed below.

Children who have not received their first communion should come forward with their hands folded and the wine server will pray for them.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Minister: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God.

Please let an usher know if it is difficult for you to come forward.

We would be happy to serve you at your seat.

If you would like gluten-free communion bread, please request it from your server.

We serve wine during communion. If you prefer grape juice, please request it when served.

Communion Prayers

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.

Prayer of Humble Access

I do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in my own goodness, but only in your righteousness credited to me. I am not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose manner is always to show mercy. Grant me, therefore, O Lord, the grace to commune now with Christ by faith, that I may evermore live in him and he in me. Amen.

Silent Night

Hymn No. 210 (Stanzas 1-3)

STILLE NACHT

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn No. 225 (Stanzas 1-2, 4-5)

IRBY

***The Seventh Lesson**

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Jessie Liu

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***Angels We Have Heard on High**

Hymn No. 214 (Stanzas 1 and 2)

GLORIA

***Benediction**

Minister: May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: *(sung) Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Musicians: Mark Austin, trumpet; Tim Brown, piano; Cindy Cook, organ; Michelle Hays, violin;
Laurie Meister, harp; Eric Priest, horn; Amy Wiggs, flute; Steven Wiggs, cello.
Betty Liang and Rob Lee, vocalists.

Lyrics printed by permission: CCLI #1268735

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