

Christ Presbyterian Church

December 6, 2020

Welcome & Call to Worship

Prayer of Invocation

Opening Song

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye head to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and lamb before him bow and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save;
calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Mighty and Loving God, you have promised to draw near to those who turn from sin and call upon you, but we fear exposure, and try to hide our evil ways and words. We prefer the shadows of our pretense and denial. Even after you have given us the light of your truth and presence, we still revert to the old familiar darkness that dishonors you and dims our joy. Shine upon us again. Lead us out of the shadows of pride and self-will, and into the light of your forgiveness and love. Lord Jesus, by the all-sufficient merit of your blood and righteousness make us new and whole, so that our lives will faithfully reflect your light.

(silent prayer)

*Words of Assurance

Here I Am to Worship

Light of the World, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore you, hope of a life spent with you.

Refrain:

*So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God;
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, O so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.
Humbly You came to the earth You created, all for love's sake became poor. (Refrain)

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Pastoral 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; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Old Testament Scripture Reading

Genesis 1:1-5

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of Light, descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-5, 14

Sermon

"Christ Our God to Earth Descendeth"

*Affirmation of Faith – Heidelberg Catechism, Question #1

What is your only hope in life and in death?

That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.

Invitation to the Table

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure,
that he should give His only Son to make a wretch his treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss – the Father turns his face away,
as wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders;
ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
his dying breath has brought me life - I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything, no gifts, no power, no wisdom;
but I will boast in Jesus Christ, his death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer;
but this I know with all my heart – his wounds have paid my ransom.

Closing Song

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God;
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain:

*O what a mystery - meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross;
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify prays, "Father, forgive." (Refrain)

Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears;
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne. (Refrain)

Benediction