

1-3-2021 - Worship Guide - Christmas 2

Introduction

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Welcome *Please have a candle and Communion elements ready for worship.*

Song: **Still, Still, Still**

Still, Still, Still
let all the world be still
For Mary lays her son to rest,
Sings to him softly at her breast,
Still, still, still
Let all the world be still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
My dearest baby, sleep,
The angels all rejoice and sing,
Heav'n for your delight shall ring,
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
My dearest baby sleep.

Joy, joy, joy,
My heart is filled with joy!
The god of love has left the throne,
Made this humble world God's own,
Joy, joy, joy,
My heart is filled with joy!

Confession & Peace*

You were born through Mary's labour;
We look for answers that cost us nothing.
Messiah have mercy
Messiah have mercy

You were greeted by shepherds and angels;
We close our doors on those outside.
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy

You share our whole humanity and delight in your creation;
We make your love too small and take your gift for granted.
Messiah have mercy
Messiah have mercy

The still of night is broken
By a by a baby's wordless cry;
The gods of power are shaken
By the nakedness of love;
For in the Christ Child's flesh, Jesus makes peace
And end the war of all against all.
May the peace of Christ Jesus rule our world and heal our hearts.
Amen. Let God's Mercy flow through us.

Hymn of Praise:#283 O Come All Ye Faithful (vv. 1, 3)

1 O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels:

Refrain

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: *Refrain*

Prayer of the Day*

God of light, who sent the Word - Jesus - to offer hope and face the world's scorn:
Open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, inciting our
vision, and calling us to a step of faith; through Jesus Christ, the One among us.
Amen.

Hebrew Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 10:15-21 (from the Apocrypha, Inclusive Version)

And it was [Wisdom] who delivered a holy people,
a blameless stock, from a nation of oppressors;

She entered the soul of one of YHWH's faithful,
who, with signs and wonders,
was able to stand against an imposing ruler.

She rewarded the labors of a holy people
and guided them on a wondrous quest,
becoming their shade by day
and their starlight at night.

She led them across the Sea of Reeds,
brought them safely through the deep waters,
but She engulfed their enemies
and spewed them up from the fathomless depths.

And when these just people stood in victory over
the godless,
they sang of your glory, God our Deliverer,
and in one voice praised your power
and called you their champion.—

because Wisdom gave speech to those who could
not speak
and brought eloquence to the lips of infants

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Song: #296 What Child is This (vv. 1,3)

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18 (Inclusive Version)

IN THE BEGINNING
there was the Word;
the Word was in God's presence,
and the Word was God.

The Word was present to God
from the beginning.

Through the Word
all things came into being,
and apart from the Word
nothing came into being
that has come into being.

In the Word was life,
and that life was humanity's light—
a Light that shines in the darkness,
a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind.

The Word was coming into the world—
was in the world—
and though the world
was made through the Word,
the world didn't recognize it.

Though the Word came to its own realm,
the Word's own people didn't accept it.

Yet any who did accept the Word,
who believed in that Name,
were empowered to become children of God—
children born not of natural descent,
nor urge of flesh
nor human will—
but born of God.

And the Word became flesh
and stayed for a little while among us;
we saw the Word's glory—
the favor and position a parent gives an only child—
filled with grace,
filled with truth.

John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'The one who comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.'"

Of this One's fullness
we've all had a share—
gift on top of gift.

For while the Law was given through Moses,
the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;
it is the Only Begotten,
ever at Abba's side,
who has revealed God to us.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word... Thanks be to God

Message

Song: O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is Love and His gospel is Peace;
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother,
And in his name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful Chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise his Holy name!

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

A Christmas Creed

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

I believe in the One whose Spirit glorified a little town and whose Spirit still brings music to persons all over the world.

I believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, but who transformed the place by his very presence.

I believe in the One who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons with hungry hearts.

I believe in the One whose cradle was a mother's arms, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to wholeness, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.

I confess my ever-lasting need of God: The need of forgiveness for my selfishness and greed, the need of new life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.

I believe in God who gives us the best of God's own self.

I believe in Jesus, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem this night, for me and for the world.

Amen.

Offering

- **Text:** to number 833-893-0362 text GIVE
- **Website:** www.slcmv.org and click on GIVE
- **Mail:** Salem, 2529 N. Laventure Rd, Mt. Vernon, WA 98273
- THANK YOU to those who have been contributing offerings through one of these methods. If you have not yet made the opportunity to give, every and any amount makes a difference; so please consider submitting your offerings so that we (together) continue to honor God and support Salem's ministry & mission.

Prayers of Intercession

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

*For what or whom else do the people pray?
(Zoom users: Please unmute or use chat feature to offer your petitions)*

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Mercy becomes You.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Holy Communion*

God be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**
We give thanks to God. **Thank You God for Your grace.**

We thank you loving God,
For you did not abandon us
Or stand far off
But came in awful nearness
With the urgency of love.

In creation's dawn,
You gave birth to all that is;
To the people of Israel
You revealed yourself a Parent
And shared the human story.

Now we praise you
For the Word made flesh
Born of Mary's body,
Nurtured in her womb,
Cradled in her arms,
Greeted by her song.

The fullness of God dwells in Jesus' flesh,
A touch of welcome for the one thrown aside,
Good news of bread for the hungry and poor,
A shepherd to find those who are lost.

Now we are caught up,
Body and soul resound
With the glory of music divine,
Echoing through the hallowed earth:

Holy: *tune: angels we have heard on high*

**Holy, holy holy Lord, God of hosts, all praise is giv'n!
All your glory fills the earth; all your power fills the heav'ns.
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Blessed is the one who came, bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is our Christ who comes in the bread and in the wine.
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!
Glo-- ria, in excelsis Deo!**

Words of Institution

Christ's Prayer (Inclusive)

We pray together in the Spirit that Jesus taught:
**Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ is with you; Christ's grace embodies you..
Eat and drink, this is Christ's **forgiveness** for you.

Lamb of God: *(tune: o little town of bethlehem)*

**O Lamb of God from Bethlehem, where Mary gave you birth,
grant us your mercy, gracious Lord, Redeemer of the earth.
O Lamb of God, for give us, for we still live in sin.
O, come to us, abide with us, and grant us peace within.**

Prayer after Communion*

We thank you that our hunger finds its rest in Jesus who offers God's Real Presence for the life of the waiting world: earth our wandering spirit and show yourself to us in the face of every other. **Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing:

May we who have been touched
by the Word made flesh
be Christ's body for the world
Jesus' hands to bring blessing,
the Savior's senses to glory,
in the promise of creation restored;
And the blessing of God +
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit be with now and always.
Amen.

Carol: #290 Go Tell It On the Mountain (vv. 1, 3)

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. Refrain

Dismissal

Go in peace. God is with you in every time and space. Thanks be to God.

Zoom Coffee Hour follows after Worship.

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MUSIC: French carol melody.

GLORIA
77.77 with refrain

WORDS: Unknown origin, revised by Daniel Benedict and Dean McIntyre.
MUSIC: Lewis H. Redner, 1868

ST. LOUIS
86.86.76.86

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