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*Light*



# West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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December 26, 2021

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

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## Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

*He Is Born*

arr. Joanne Brown

## GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

### \* Call to Worship

Isaiah 60: 1-2

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

### \* Opening Prayer

Moira Laidlaw, on [Liturgies Online](#)

God of all time, we praise and adore you for breaking into the darkness of this world with the glorious light of your presence. A light which made your love for the world visible in the babe born in Bethlehem— Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. A light which guided those gift-bearing travelers from afar to find and worship the Christ-child. A light which leads us to you, now revealed in Jesus Christ. We pray that you will accept our worship for it arises from hearts and minds in awe over the enormity of your gift to us of pure love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

### \* Opening Carol *Good Christian friends rejoice*

# 210

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice,  
with heart and soul and voice.  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ was born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow,

and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

2. 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 bless'd forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. 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!

## CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

### **Congregational Prayer** ~ adapted from Justice for Immigrants, "Prayer and Liturgy Suggestions,"

originally posted on the **Justice for Immigrants** website. <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/> Available now on the **NC Council of Churches** website. <https://www.ncchurches.org/lectionary/httpwww-ncchurches-orgp19454/>

Our God, you have given us in your word the stories of persons who needed to leave their homelands— Abraham, Sarah, Ruth, Moses. Help us to remember that when we speak of immigrants and refugees, we speak of Christ. In the One who had no place to lay his head, and in the least of his brothers and sisters, you come to us again, a stranger seeking refuge. We confess that we often turn away. You have chosen that the life of Jesus be filled with events of unplanned travel and flight from enemies. You have shown us through the modeling of Jesus how we are called to relate to persons from different nations and cultures. You have called us to be teachers of your word. We ask you, our God, to open our minds and hearts to the challenge and invitation to model your perfect example of love. Amen.

1. It came upon a midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on earth, goodwill to all  
from heav'n's gracious king."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.
2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains,  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife,  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heav'nly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong,  
and warring humankind hears not  
the tidings which they bring.  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
and hear the angels sing.

## WORSHIP IN GIVING

### Thoughts on Giving

Tithe.ly

Have you ever considered the purpose of obtaining wealth? Is it to be able to buy whatever catches your eye at any given moment? Is the goal to support any cause or ideal that comes to your attention? Or perhaps it's to simply be able to have enough money to "get by."

None of those are the best motivation for earning a paycheck.

Instead, what if we chose to pursue an income that we can use in service to God? What would that look like? It's more about what we do with what we earn than the balance in our checking account. In Proverbs 3:9, we read that we should, "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops."

Let's dedicate our finances to God. Whatever you're giving today, whatever amount you'll give next year, devote your pursuit and use of money to honoring God first and foremost.

## LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

**Special Music**

*Christmas Time Is Here*

Vince Guaraldi

**Scripture**

Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)

### **The Escape to Egypt**

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

### **The Massacre of the Infants**

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. <sup>17</sup> Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: <sup>18</sup> "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

## The Return from Egypt

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

\* Carol

*The first Noel* (verses 1-3)

# 199

1. The first noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.
2. They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far,  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.
3. And by the light of that same star  
three wisemen came from country far.  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
Born is the King of Israel.

Sermon

“Welcome to Our World”

# GO IN GOD'S NAME

## \* Closing Carol

*Joy to the world* (verses 1-2, 4)

# 3 | 8

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
 Let earth receive her King;  
 let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
  
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!  
 Let all their songs employ  
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
 repeat the sounding joy,  
 repeat the sounding joy,  
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 and makes the nations prove  
 the glories of his righteousness,  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders of his love,  
 and wonders, and wonders of his love.

## \* Benediction

### Postlude

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

arr. Samuel Wellman

\* Please stand as able and led



<b>Ministers</b> .....	<b>All Members</b>
Pastor.....	David Whitten
Worship Leader.....	Bob Gangwer
Special Music.....	Ken Heatwole
Song Leader .....	Bob Gangwer
Flautist .....	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist.....	David Whitten
Pianist .....	Bob Phillips
Violinist .....	Bill Kinzie

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