

Glory
to God

in the highest
heaven, and
on earth peace
among those
he favors!"

Luke 2:14, NRSVUE



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

*Merry Christmas! Welcome to the manger,
which cradles the very Word made flesh.*

Welcome

Prelude

Rise Up, Shepherd, And Follow

arr. Lyndell Leatherman

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

One: Glory to God in the highest!

Many: **And hope to every discouraged heart.**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

Many: **And peace to every conflicted soul.**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

Many: **And joy to every downcast spirit.**

One: Glory to God in the highest!

Many: **And love to everyone.**

All: Let us sing praises to our God.

Let us offer this light against the darkness.

* Opening Prayer

Holy God of Love, there is light in our lives because of the abundance of your steadfast love. A love so vast, so deep, so real, that you became one of us. May we live within the power of this love. And may we share its light with a world where too many dwell in darkness. Amen.

* **Opening Song**

Here I Am to Worship

227 VT

Here I Am To Worship by Tim Hughes

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Verse 1: 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.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.*

Verse 2: King of all days,
oh so highly exalted,
glorious in heaven above,
humbly you came to the earth you created,
all for love's sake became poor. *[Refrain]*

Bridge: And I'll never know how much it cost
to see my sin upon that cross.
I'll never know how much it cost to see
my sin upon that cross. *[Refrain]*

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Time with our Children

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vv. 1-2)

245 VT

Verse 1:

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Verse 2:

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing—let “Glory!” ring with peace to all on earth!

Pastoral Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (vv. 1-2)

247 VT

Verse 1:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies.
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”

Verse 2:

Christ, by highest heav’n adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’incarnate deity;
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! *[Refrain]*

A Prayer on Giving

Glory to God, who has given us Jesus, your gift of love to a world in need. We offer you our gifts of love – these gifts of money, our time and our talents. Take them and us we pray, to bring glory to your name. Amen

LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD PROCLAIMED

Special Music

Love Came Down at Christmas

Robert Thygerson

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹ and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* (vv. 1-2) # 2 5 3 VT

Verse 1:

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around, and glory shone around.

Verse 2:

“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.
“Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind, to you and humankind.”

Sermon

“Shepherds Night Out”

GO IN GOD’S NAME

*** Carol**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

26 | VT

Verse 1:

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
with heart and soul and voice.
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Verse 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!

Verse 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!

*** Benediction**

Postlude

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

J. Calkin

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play.
And wild and sweet the words repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to men.*

*And pealed the bells so loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good will to men."*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime, of peace on earth, good will to men.*

* Please stand as able and led



Ministers	All Members
Pastor	David Whitten
Worship Leader	Alyce Newman
Children's Time	Sarah Hartman
Flautist	Sarah Hartman
Guitarist	David Whitten
Pianist	Bob Phillips

