PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Worship

JANUARY 3, 2021

WELCOME

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP*

Luke 1.68; 2.25, 30-32

Minister: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people, for those who have been waiting for the consolation of Israel.

All: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND ADORATION*

Hymn*

O Come, All Ye Faithful | No. 208 Stanzas 1, 3, and 4

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;

Chorus: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God, in the highest; *Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n; Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing; *Chorus*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

adapted from the Heidelberg Catechism, Questions 27-28

Minister: Christian, what is the providence of God?

All: The providence of God is the almighty, everywhere-present power of God, whereby He upholds heaven and earth with all its creatures, and so governs them, that rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, meat and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, indeed, all things are governed not by chance, but by His fatherly hand.

Minister: What impact should a belief in the providence of God have in our lives?

All: That we may be patient in adversity, thankful in prosperity, and trusting in our faithful God and Father, that no creature shall separate us from His love, since all creatures are so in His hand, that without His will we cannot so much as move.

ADESTE FIDELES

SONG OF PRAISE

From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable

From the squalor of a borrowed stable, by the Spirit and a virgin's faith; To the anguish and the shame of scandal came the Savior of the human race! But the skies were filled with the praise of heav'n, shepherds listen as the angels tell Of the Gift of God come down to man at the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners, humble servant in the Father's hands, Filled with power and the Holy Spirit, filled with mercy for the broken man. Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and sorrows that I know so well; Yet His righteous steps give me hope again—I will follow my Immanuel!

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal, He was lifted on a cruel cross; He was punished for a world's transgressions, He was suffering to save the lost. He fights for breath, He fights for me, loosing sinners from the claims of hell; And with a shout our souls set free—death defeated by Immanuel!

Now He's standing in the place of honor, crowned with glory on the highest throne, Interceding for His own beloved till His Father calls to bring them home! Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the fear of hell; But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms, giving glory to Immanuel!

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF SIN

Minister: Let us confess our sins before our righteous and holy God.

All: Heavenly Father, we praise you for your wondrous grace and love in sending Jesus to save us. Yet we find that sin continues to have great power over us in our daily lives. Every day we struggle to put the love of others above our love of self. Every day we sin against you in thought, word and deed. We thank you for Jesus, who gave up the glory of heaven to redeem and rescue a sinful people like us. We pray that more and more our hearts would be changed and sanctified by the grace of God in Christ Jesus. Amen.

PRIVATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Children's Time (10:30 service only)

After the intercessory prayer, children in kindergarten through 3rd grade and their teachers may exit the sanctuary through the north doors of the sanctuary. Teachers will return with the children after the sermon. Parents may meet them by the north entrance, or children may join their parents at their seats.

SCRIPTURE READING*

Matthew 2.1-16

(Please see insert.)

SERMON

Resume of Redemption

Rev. Nate Libby

2 Corinthians 5:17

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S TABLE

All those who trust in Christ alone for their salvation, are baptized, and belong to a Bible believing church are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper together, feeding on the grace of God by faith. If you have not put your trust in Christ, please allow the elements to pass you by and take this opportunity to meditate on the meaning of the Gospel.

A word to parents: Baptized children are invited to the table after they have made a profession of faith and been received as communing members by the Session of the church to which their parents belong.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

HYMN*

As with Gladness Men of Old | No. 226 Stanzas 1-3

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; So, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly cradle bed, There to bend the knee before, him whom heav'n and earth adore; So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare; So may we with holy joy, pure, and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

BENEDICTION*

Minister: May the blessing of God Almighty, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, be with you all now and forever.

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Matthew 2.1-16

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, 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." ¹⁴ And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

¹⁶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men.