
prelude

PAT DOLAN

As the music plays, please quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship, lifting your thoughts up from the cares of this world.

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon) – A. Gretchaninof

Lord, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.

These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.

The Holy Boy – John Ireland

preparing our hearts

In that same hour [Jesus] rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

– Luke 10:21-22 ESV

**** call to worship**

Leader: The LORD has made known his salvation;

All: **He has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All: **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

– Psalm 98:2-3 ESV

Leader: We are gathered here to behold the Lord our God. Awesome and mighty is he.

** Please stand if you are able

ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam, thou silver moon with softer gleam –
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong, ye clouds that sail in heaven along –
O praise him! Alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice; ye lights of evening, find a voice.
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart, forgiving others, take your part.
O sing ye! Alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear, praise God and on him cast your care.
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness.
O praise him! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, Three in One!
O praise him! O praise him! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Words: Francis of Assisi; Music: German tune. Public Domain.

**** prayer of invocation**

Leader: God of our hope and salvation, for those who seek a Savior, lead them to that lowly manger, to the child born to bring freedom and forgiveness; for those who seek assurance, lead them to the Light of the World who opens eyes to understanding, hearts to God's Word, and souls to the truth; for those who seek forgiveness, lead them to a grace beyond comprehension, to wholeness, healing, and peace. Draw near us as we draw near to you this morning in worship. Let us see that you are great, and let your greatness order our thinking, our feeling, our wanting, and our living. By the grace of the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

THE NICENE CREED

All: We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
Begotten from the Father before all ages,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
Begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; He became incarnate
by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.
The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.
He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
And with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
And to life in the world to come.
Amen.

* Here, “catholic” means “universal,” and refers to the Christian church in all places

FAIREST LORD JESUS

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Beautiful Savior! Lord of all the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,
Now and forever more be thine.

“Schönster Herr Jesu.” 17th Century German Hymn. Silesian Folk Song. Public Doman.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.

– John 3:19-21^{ESV}

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

All: **Almighty and merciful God,**
We confess that we have sinned against you
And one another in both our actions and our inactions.
We recognize that in Jesus our light has come,
Yet often we choose to walk in the shadows and ignore the light.
Expose our sin that we might confess it, despise it, and finally deny it.
Gracious God, forgive our sins and
Remove from us the veil of darkness which shrouds our lives.
Illumine us by your Word so we may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory.
Amen.

Please reflect and silently confess your sins.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE **

Leader: In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness,

– John 1:4-5^{ESV}

All: **And the darkness has not overcome it. Thanks be to God!**

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light, my strength, my song;
This Cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all – here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid – here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground his body lay, Light of the World by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am his and he is mine – bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death – this is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home – here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

* *Tag*: Here in the power of Christ alone.

“In Christ Alone,” Words & Music: Keith Getty & Stuart Townend.
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Leader: Isaiah 60:1-2; Titus 2:11-14
 This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

An officer of the church prays for the world, nation, community, and church.

Leader: All these mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, who prayed saying,

All: **Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be your name;
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors,
Do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

the sacrament of baptism

Candidate for baptism | Maryanne Morgen McDow

Matthew 28:18-20 ^{ESV} | And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Romans 6:4-5 ^{ESV} | We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS OF AN INFANT

1. Do you acknowledge your child’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God’s covenant promises in her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before her a godly example, that you will pray with and for her, that you will teach her the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

QUESTION FOR THE CONGREGATION

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

Leader: Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” In a world filled with trouble, let us encourage one another to look to the one who has overcome the world. May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

While your children are welcome and encouraged to worship with you, at this time they can be dismissed for an age-appropriate worship for ages 3-K.

If you would like to hear more about CPC or would like to let us know of a prayer need, please include your contact information or prayer request in the welcome pad when it comes around to you.

When instructed, greet those around you, saying, “The peace of Christ be with you.” When the music begins, please be seated and prepare yourself for the hearing of God’s Word.

sermon

Series | “The Christ-Centered Life”

WHIT ANDERSON

Sermon | “Epiphany”

January 6, 2019

Matthew 2:1-12 ESV | 1 Now 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.”

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 8 And 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.” 9 After 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. 10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 11 And 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. 12 And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

sermon notes

1. Who's Looking for Jesus
2. Who's Not Looking for Jesus
3. Bowing Before Jesus

** gospel charge

Leader: In light of the Word we have heard, how ought we live?

All: [L]et us ... lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

– Hebrews 12:1-2_{ESV}

WELCOME TO HIS TABLE

The Lord's Supper is a family meal for Christians – a time when we delight in Christ and in the good news that His work alone has made us right with God. All baptized Christians who trust in Christ alone as their Savior, belong to a church that embraces the gospel, and seek strength to live more faithfully to Christ are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, please use this time to meditate on the following prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please remain seated for communion. As a symbol of our unity in Christ, wait until everyone has been served the elements, and we will all partake together. Once you are finished with your cup, please pass it to the inside aisles and the ushers will retrieve them.

If you have a gluten allergy, there are gluten-free wafers available in the center of the bread trays. During the celebration of communion, we will sing the printed hymns.

NOTE TO PARENTS: *To receive communion, a child must have been baptized, publicly professed their faith in Christ, and been formally received as a communing member by the elders of this church or the governing body of the church to which you belong. We look forward to welcoming your children to the table when they come to this point and ask that you speak to the pastor when you feel your child is ready to begin the process of becoming a communing member.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And as they were eating, he took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, “Take; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And he said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many.”

– Mark 14:22-24^{ESV}

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is very good and right, our duty and privilege, to at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Hear us then, as we pray.

All: Thank you, Father, for making Christ known to us in the bread that is broken and the cup that is filled. May this meal now enable us to increase in faith, persevere in hope, and grow up in love. May this witness to Christ’s death draw others into fellowship with him so that all your children will be gathered in to share with us the joy of your salvation. Send us out from this place by your Spirit, our ears open to your Word, our minds alert to the calling you give us, our hearts full of zeal for your coming kingdom, our voices confessing the name of Jesus, our Lord and our God. Amen.

Minister: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

JESUS, I COME

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into thy freedom, gladness and light, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of my sickness into thy health; out of my wanting and into thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into thyself, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of thy cross, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm; out of life's storms and into thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into thy blessed will to abide, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of myself to dwell in thy love; out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove, Jesus, I come to thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb, Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of thy home, Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold, into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
Ever thy glorious face to behold, Jesus, I come to thee.

“Jesus, I Come,” Words: William True Sleeper, Public Domain; Music: Greg Thompson,
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BE THOU MY VISION

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought by day or by night; waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father and I thy true son; thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise; thou my inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only, first in my heart; High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won. May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Words: Dallan Forgaill, translated by Mary Byrne; Music: Irish folk song. Public Domain.

THY MERCY, MY GOD

Thy mercy, my God, is the theme of my song, the joy of my heart and the boast of my tongue;
Thy free grace alone, from the first to the last, hath won my affections, and bound my soul fast.

Without thy sweet mercy I could not live here; sin would reduce me to utter despair;
But, through thy free goodness, my spirits revive, and he that first made me still keeps me alive.

Thy mercy is more than a match for my heart, which wonders to feel its own hardness depart;
Dissolved by thy goodness, I fall to the ground, and weep to the praise of the mercy I've found.

Great Father of mercies, thy goodness I own, and the covenant love of thy crucified Son;
All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

End:

All praise to the Spirit, whose whisper divine seals mercy, and pardon, and righteousness mine.

“Thy Mercy, My God,” Words: John Stocker, Public Domain. Music: Sandra McCracken.

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announcements

Please note the announcements found on Pages 17-20 of your bulletin.

**** benediction**