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**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.*

*Sing We Now of Christmas* – French carol/Lloyd Larson

*Now is Born the Divine Christ Child* – French carol/F. Bock

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring* – Piae Cantiones, 1582

*From Heaven to Earth I Come* – J.S. Bach (text: Luther)/Johann Walther

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**preparing our hearts**

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

– Matthew 13:44-46<sub>ESV</sub>

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**\*\* call to worship**

*Leader:* The LORD is our chosen portion and our cup; he holds our lot.

**All:** **The lines have fallen for us in pleasant places; indeed, we have a beautiful inheritance.**

*Leader:* We bless the LORD who gives us counsel;

**All:** **We have set the LORD always before us;**

*Leader:* Because he is at our right hand,

**All:** **We shall not be shaken.**

– From Psalm 16:5-8<sub>ESV</sub>

\*\* Please stand if you are able

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy.  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, Music: George Frederick Handel, Arr: Lowell Mason. Public Domain.

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## **\*\* 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 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.

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## **old testament reading**

*Leader:* Psalm 63:1-8  
This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! \*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace Thee, with love and awe;  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly? \*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! \*

Words and Music: John Francis Wade. Public Domain.

## CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

*Leader:* If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

– 1 John 1:6 ESV

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**All:** O God, our guide, who once used a star to lead people to Christ,

**We confess our poor sense of direction, and our feet falter in the dim lights we follow into paths not meant for us to tread. We let ourselves become confused, easily distracted, and lose our way. You have given us instruction and revealed your very Word, but we fail to follow the signs you provide.**

**Yet we are angry that we are lost, surprised that we have stumbled, and discouraged by our failures. So we retreat to the shadows of sin and foolishness.**

**Forgive our waywardness, O God. Forgive our stubborn squint that would rather stagger around in our own wisdom rather than sprint and bound in the grace you so readily give. These mercies we ask in the name of Jesus, to whom you lead us that might know the Way to you.**

**Amen.**

*Please reflect and silently confess your sins.*

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE \*\*

*Leader:* The words of our Lord: “I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.”

– John 12:46 NRSV

**All: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. Thanks be to God!**

## HIS LOVE CAN NEVER FAIL

I do not ask to see the way my feet will have to tread;  
But only that my soul may feed upon the living Bread.  
'Tis better far that I should walk by faith close to his side;  
I may not know the way I go, but oh, I know my Guide. \*

*\* Chorus:*

His love can never fail, his love can never fail,  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail.

And if my feet would go astray, they cannot, for I know  
That Jesus guides my faltering steps, as joyfully I go.  
And tho' I may not see his face, my faith is strong and clear,  
That in each hour of sore distress my Savior will be near. \*

I will not fear, tho' darkness come abroad o'er all the land,  
If I may only feel the touch of his own loving hand.  
And tho' I tremble when I think how weak I am, and frail,  
My soul is satisfied to know his love can never fail. \*

"His Love Can Never Fail," Words: E. S. Hall, Public Domain. Music: Christopher Miner.  
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*Leader:*     Philippians 3:7-14  
                  This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:**         **Thanks be to God!**

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prayer

*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.**

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\*\* passing the peace

*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.*

December 30, 2018

**John 21:15-19** ESV | 15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Feed my lambs.” 16 He said to him a second time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” He said to him, “Tend my sheep.” 17 He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. 18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” 19 (This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

*Leader:* This is the Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God!

1. Treasure Restored
2. Treasure Expressed
3. Treasure Experienced

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## \*\* affirmation of faith

*Leader:* Christian, do you believe and trust in God the Father, who because of his great love did send his only begotten Son to take on flesh in union with mankind?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who graciously represented mankind before the Father in perfect obedience and in perfect atonement, reconciling us to God?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who mercifully breathes life into those dead in sin, that they might know the Father and believe the Son unto salvation?

**All:** **We believe and trust in him.**

*Leader:* This is the faith of the Church.

**All:** **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

*Minister:* The Lord be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

*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. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name; evermore praising you, and singing,

**All:** (*singing Gloria Patri*)

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the be-

gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, a - men.

## 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.

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*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.*

***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.***

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## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

– Matthew 26:26-29 ESV

*Minister:* Let us pray.

**All:** **Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and the cup, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ’s body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in this world.**

*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.

*During the celebration of communion, while the music plays, please reflect on your understanding of and readiness for the Lord’s Table.*

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days;  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise. Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect and use  
Every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own;  
It shall be thy royal throne, it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be  
Ever, only, all for thee; ever, only, all for thee.

Words: Frances Havergal, Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Public Domain.

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**announcements**

*Please note the announcements found on Pages 16-20 of your bulletin.*

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**\*\* benediction**

*Minister:* Peace on the earth!

**All: And good will to mankind!**

*Minister:* May the peace of God the Father, the grace of Christ the Son, and the hope of the  
Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.