



*Grace Church Stamford welcomes you
to our Sunday Service
where our aim is to meet Jesus Christ
through his Word and Spirit*

December 26, 2021 AD

Call To Worship

Lift up your hearts in prayer. Lift up your voices in praise. Lift up your eyes to the Lord for he has drawn near and dwells among us. **We lift them up to the Lord in praise and worship. Amen.**

Singing Together *Angels From The Realms of Glory*

James Montgomery, Henry Smart | @Public Domain | CCLI License # 11280377

Angels from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
You who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth

*Refrain Come and worship come and worship
Worship Christ the newborn King*

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing
Yonder shines the infant light (Refrain)

Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
You have seen His natal star (Refrain)

Though an infant now we view Him
He shall fill His Father's throne
Gather all nations to Him
Every knee shall then bow down (Refrain)

All creation join in praising
God the Father Spirit Son
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One (Refrain 2x)

Hearing God's Word

Isaiah 49: 8-23

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Confessing Together

O God, in the beginning you spoke, and creation was born, the object of your loving care. **We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.** In the fullness of time you spoke, and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of your love. **We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.** We marvel at the miracle of creation, we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation. **Forgive us for turning our faith into a lifeless ritual. Lord, may the Holy Spirit animate our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.**

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons and daughters. **Thanks be to God.**

Singing Together

Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery

Matt Papa, Michael Bleeker, Matt Boswell | © 2012 Bleeker Pub. | CCLI License # 11280377

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living in His suff'ring
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured love untold

Come behold the wondrous myst'ry
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord He is alive
What a foretaste of deliv'rance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when He comes

Christ Is Mine Forevermore

Jonny Robinson, Rich Thompson | ©S2016 CityAlight Music | CCLI License # 11280377

Mine are days that God has numbered
I was made to walk with Him
Yet I look for worldly treasure
And forsake the King of kings
But mine is hope in my Redeemer
Though I fall His love is sure
For Christ has paid for every failing
I am His forevermore

Mine are tears in times of sorrow
Darkness not yet understood
Through the valley I must travel
Where I see no earthly good
But mine is peace that flows from heaven
And the strength in times of need
I know my pain will not be wasted
Christ completes His work in me

Mine are days here as a stranger
Pilgrim on a narrow way
One with Christ I will encounter
Harm and hatred for His name
But mine is armor for this battle
Strong enough to last the war
And He has said He will deliver
Safely to the golden shore

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

*Bridge Come rejoice now O my soul
For His love is my reward
Fear is gone and hope is sure
Christ is mine forevermore (3x)*

And mine are keys to Zion city
Where beside the King I walk
For there my heart has found its treasure
Christ is mine forevermore

Praying Together

Hearing God's Word Proclaimed

Luke 15: 11-24

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Communing Together

Invitation

Hear the words of our Savior: 'Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.'

We come not because we ought, but because we may; not because we are righteous, but because we are repentant; not because we are strong, but because we are weak; not because we are whole, but because we are broken.

Awaiting his coming in glory, let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of our Lord. So let a person examine themselves, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right for us to give thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have shown your great love for us by using commonplace things for your purpose – water to mark your children, bread and wine to feed and nourish us ordinary people to be disciples, a child in a manger to announce your grace. Through these ordinary means of grace, bless us with the strength of faith as we go out into the world in your name. Thank you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Singing Together

Joy To The World

Words and Music by George Frideric Handel, Isaac Watts | Public Domain | CCLI License # 11280377

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

Joy to the world 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

Benediction for Mission

Welcome Home

Luke 15: 11-24

Introduction

1. The Lost Son (11-20a)

2. The Compassionate Father (20b-24)

Application

*** Prayer for those searching for truth** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. While I find that hard to believe, help me to believe your claims. Guide me, teach me, open to me the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

*** Prayer of belief** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross, and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn away from my sins and receive you as Savior and Lord. Amen.