

Liturgy for Corporate Worship

The Lord’s Day

December 29, 2024

Prelude

Chris Holmberg

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Choir

Christmastime

Call to Worship

Luke 2:16-20

Opening Hymn

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

Corporate Prayer of Confession & Silent Confession

O Savior, forgive us. We are slow to learn, prone to forget, and weak to climb; We are in the foothills when we should be on the heights; We are pained by our graceless hearts, our prayerless days, our poverty of love, our sloth in the heavenly race, our sullied consciences, our wasted hours, our unspent opportunities. We are blind while light shines around us. Take the scales from our eyes, and grind to dust our evil hearts of unbelief. Make it our chief joy to study you; to gaze and meditate upon you; to sit like Mary at your feet; to lean like John upon your breast; to appeal like Peter to your love. Let not faith cease from seeking you until it vanishes into sight. This we ask in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hebrews 8:12

The Gloria Patri

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Elder Al Dipzinski

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Unison Scripture Reading

Exodus 13:11-16

Anthem

Choir

A Cradle in Bethlehem

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon Hymn

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God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Sermon

Rev. Pete Scribner

Luke 2:21-38

Closing Hymn

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Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Benediction

Parting Hymn

God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you, with his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again. Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet; Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Our prayer of confession this morning is adapted from *Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers*.

Featured Element of Worship: The Twelve Days of Christmas

While most people have heard of the twelve days of Christmas (“...and a partridge in a pear tree!”), many do not know or understand the meaning of those twelve days. We commonly refer to December 25th as “Christmas” or “Christmas day.” In the traditional church calendar though, “Christmas” is not just a day, but a season that begins on December 25th and lasts for (you guessed it!) twelve days. During this season we focus particularly on the grace of God as it has been manifested to us through the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord. This is why our liturgical color today and next Sunday will remain white (the color of Christmas) and why we continue to include Christmas hymns in our worship. So let your Christmas joy continue, both this morning and throughout the Christmas season, as you focus on the greatest of all gifts which God has given to us!

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb; ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, all
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain
 born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten not cre - at - ed;
 glo - ry in the high - est; O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Unison Scripture Reading...Exodus 13:11-16

¹¹ “When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord’s. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ¹⁶It shall be as a mark on your hand or frontlets between your eyes, for by a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt.”

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright;
4. The shep - herds at those tid - ings re - joic - ed much in mind,

re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and left their flocks a - feed - ing, in tem - pest, storm, and wind,

to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
and went to Beth - le - hem straight - way, the Son of God to find.

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Luke 2:21-38

²¹ And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation

³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

WELCOME to this morning’s service of corporate worship!

The Flowers adorning our worship this morning have been provided by Sam & Mary Winegarden in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary.

Happy Anniversary also to Bob and Patti Ball who celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday, December 28th. The Balls have four children and nine grandchildren. Patti loves photography, crafts, nature, and her dogs, and Bob enjoys football, die-cast cars, reading & animals. They joined Calvary in 1975.

Christmas Greetings to the congregation have been received from: Mike & Janet Adema, Tom & Sue Alarie, Sharon Atchison, Rozie Aube, Leroy & Cora Cole, Jim & Marsha Davis, Al & Karen Dipzinski, Jerry & Joanne Dosh, Jim & Karen Hayden, Anne Haughey, Vickie Haughey, Dorothy Heidtman, Scott & Jan Herriman, Bob & Marion Isaacson, Madeleine Jens, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, Joan Layman, Frank & Sue Lechota, Judy Liska, Mary Jo Lorenz, Hazel Mardlin, Barb Milloy, Larry & Janet Nichols, Andrea O’Hara & Karl Williams, Leona Paget, Pat Reedy, Joe, Michelle & Drake Robideau, Pete & Erin Scribner, Chuck Stevens, Doug & Dana Stoddard, Randy & Ginny Sturm, Mick & Ann Tulgetske, Joe & Esma Walker, Sam & Mary Winegarden.

Poinsettias this year were provided by: Linn Aikins, Sue & Tom Alarie, Mike & Donna Baynai, Al & Karen Dipzinski, Jerry & Joanne Dosh, Mark & Kim Freeman, Lil & Laurie Goff, Jim & Karen Hayden, Jan & Scott Herriman, Jim & Ellen Jones, Phil & Sharon Koerber, Pete & Erin Scribner, Chuck Stevens, Randy & Ginny Sturm, Mike & Lois Tebo, Joe & Esma Walker, and Dorothy Younce.

Christmas Decorations will be taken down next Sunday following our worship service. Please consider planning on staying to lend a hand!

Next Sunday we will partake of The Lord’s Supper. Please take time this week to prepare your heart, reading the “Meditation for the Week” on the back page of the bulletin, considering the implications of Christ’s gift of self-sacrificial love, and how he calls us to love one another as members of his body.

We give thanks to God for his steadfast love and faithfulness in 2024, and wish you all a blessed new year in 2025!

<u>This Week at Calvary</u>		
Today	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service followed by coffee, donuts & fellowship
	11:30	NO Sunday School today

Tuesday	No Tuesdays at Two
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Wednesday - Friday	Office Closed
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Next Sunday	9:40	Prayer in Office Conference Room (All Welcome)
	10:00	Worship Service with Communion followed by coffee, donuts, fellowship, and removal of Christmas decorations from the Sanctuary
	11:30	Sunday School

There will be no Choir Rehearsal this week.

<u>Church Staff</u>		
Pastor		Pete Scribner
Director of Music		Susan Lechota
Music Minister		Chris Holmberg
Custodian		Vicky Haughey

Offerings are received each week in the wooden donation box in the Narthex. We have placed it there as a convenience for our members and friends. If you are visiting us this Sunday, please feel no pressure to make any donation. We are glad to have you simply be our guest today, and invite you to join us for a donut and coffee in the Fellowship Hall after worship!

Giving Envelopes for 2025 are available for pick up on the office desk.

Meditation for the Week

Now that the devil, the world's tyrant, has been slain, we don't come to an earthly feast, my beloved friends. We come here to an eternal and heavenly feast. We don't celebrate a mere shadow; we come to a feast of truth. In the Old Testament Passover feast, they ate the flesh of a dumb sheep, anointed their door-posts with its blood, and pled for God's help against the destroying angel. But now we eat the very Word of the Father; the doorposts of our hearts are sealed with the blood of the New Covenant, and we celebrate the grace the Saviour has given us, when He said, "Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). Death no longer reigns; it has been displaced by life, since our Lord said, "I am the Life" (John 14:6). Everything therefore now overflows with joy and delight, as Scripture says, "The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice!" (Psalm 97:1). When death still reigned, "sitting down by the rivers of Babylon, we wept" (Psalm 137:1). We lamented, feeling the bitterness of our bondage. But now that death and the devil's kingdom have been overthrown, everything richly overflows with joy and delight! Now God is known, not only in Judea, but throughout all the world: "their voice has gone forth, and the knowledge of Him has filled all the earth" (Psalm 19:4, Habakuk 2:14).

The consequence of all this, my beloved friends, is plain: we must come to such a feast as this, not with dirty garments, but having dressed our minds with holy clothing. In order to do this, we need to clothe ourselves with our Lord Jesus; and then we'll be able to celebrate the feast with Him.

Athanasius
(296-373 AD)