
God's People Gather for Worship

November 22, 2020

11:00 AM

"By God's grace alone and to his glory alone, we exist to worship God in his greatness and his holiness with Gospel-driven passion and integrity..." *(excerpted from FPC Rome Mission Statement)*

Gathering as God's People

Gathering Song

"Behold Our God"

Who has held the oceans in His hands?
Who has numbered every grain of sand?
Kings and nations tremble at His voice
All creation rises to rejoice

(chorus)

Behold our God seated on His throne
Come let us adore Him
Behold our King, nothing can compare
Come let us adore Him!

Who has given counsel to the Lord?
Who can question any of His words?
Who can teach the one who knows all things?
Who can fathom all his wondrous deeds?

Who has felt the nails upon His hands
Bearing all the guilt of sinful man?
God eternal, humbled to the grave
Jesus, Savior, risen now to reign

(bridge)

You will reign forever! (Let Your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let your glory fill the earth)
You will reign forever! (Let your glory fill)

Welcome and Announcements

Declaring God's Praise

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Leader: The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God's actions - past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah's coming as addressed to us - people who wait for the second coming of Jesus. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the

ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when the wolf will lie down with the lamb, death will be swallowed up, and every tear will be wiped away. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God's redemption plan. Hear these words from the Gospel of Matthew as we reflect on the Christ who came and is coming again:

Call to Worship

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Leader: Let us worship God!

Song

"Joy Has Dawned"

Joy has dawned upon the world,
Promised from creation:
God's salvation now unfurled,
Hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above,
Not with scenes of glo – ry,
But a humble gift of love:
Jesus born of Mary
Sounds of wonder fill the sky,
With the songs of angels,
As the mighty Prince of Life,
Shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place,
Shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast,
Vulnerable and helpless.
Shepherds bow before the Lamb,
Gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands,

Prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today,
Incense, God is with us,
Myrrh, his death will make a way,
By His blood He'll win us.
Son of Adam, Son of heaven,
Given as a ransom,
Reconciling God and man,
Christ our mighty Champion!
What a Savior, what a Friend,
What a glorious mystery:
Once a babe in Bethlehem,
Now the Lord of history.

Confessing Our Sin and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus, we confess our willingness to be loved but also our reluctance to love. We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love but also our refusal to forgive. We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love but also our resistance to follow you without question. In this Advent time, forgive us our failure to respond as we should. Come to us anew, and by your grace, assist us to receive you with joy, as the shepherds; with obedience, as Joseph; with love, as you have loved us. Forgive us and renew, we pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Celebrating the Sacrament

The Sacrament of Baptism of Eldon Wallis Orr

Offering Our Fellowship and Gifts

Passing of the Peace

Call for Offering

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"The Inclination of the Heart"
Rev. Bill Pardue

Scattering as Christ's Church

Song

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every 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 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.

Commissioning and Benediction



Today's Scripture

Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:3 ESV

¹³ I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me.

¹⁴ There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. ¹⁵ But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. ¹⁶ But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard.

¹⁷ The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools. ¹⁸ Wisdom is better than weapons of war, but one sinner destroys much good.

¹ Dead flies make the perfumer's ointment give off a stench;
so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor.

² A wise man's heart inclines him to the right,
but a fool's heart to the left.

³ Even when the fool walks on the road, he lacks sense,
and he says to everyone that he is a fool.
