
God's People Gather for Worship

December 13, 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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See within a manger laid
Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth!
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
With us sing our Savior's birth.

Welcome and Announcements

Declaring God's Praise

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jimmy and Callie Latham

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 Luke as we reflect on the Christ who came and is coming again:

Call to Worship

Luke 1:39-45

39 In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. 41 And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! 43 And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? 44 For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. 45 And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.

Leader: Let us worship God!

Song

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Come thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set thy people free
From our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high, appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, Glad tidings of a birth
Go to him, your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to Earth

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
by His life He brings us gladness, Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all!

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child and yet a king
born to reign in us forever, Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit; rule in all our hearts alone
By thine all sufficient merit, Raise us to thy glorious throne

Confessing Our Sin and Embracing Our Forgiveness

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Psalms 126

God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things— our hearts are filled with joy. By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom. Salvation is your gift to us. But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts. We try to complete what is already perfect; we try to add to what is already full; we try to earn what we already have. Forgive us for our foolishness. Help us to focus on your grace. Help us to walk in the Spirit. For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Celebrating the Sacrament

The Sacrament of Baptism of Mills Anberlyn Keith

Offering Our Fellowship and Gifts

Passing of the Peace

Call for Offering

Hearing God's Word

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"Knowing Enough"

Rev. Bill Pardue

Scattering as Christ's Church

Song

"Go Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

God rest ye merry, gentlemen;
Let nothing you dismay.
Remember Christ, our Savior,
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray.
(chorus)
O tidings of comfort and joy,
Comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.
From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name.
"Fear not, then," said the angel;
"Let nothing you affright.
This day is born a Savior
Of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might."

And when they came to Bethlehem,
Where our dear Savior lay,
They found Him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay.
His mother, Mary, kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray.

The message of the angel
One day would be fulfilled,
When on the cross of Calvary
The sinless Christ was killed,
And in three days He rose just as
The Father's love had willed.

Commissioning and Benediction



Today's Scripture

Ecclesiastes 11:1-6 ESV

¹ Cast your bread upon the waters,
for you will find it after many days.

² Give a portion to seven, or even to eight,
for you know not what disaster may happen on earth.

³ If the clouds are full of rain,
they empty themselves on the earth,
and if a tree falls to the south or to the north,
in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie.

⁴ He who observes the wind will not sow,
and he who regards the clouds will not reap.

⁵ As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything.

⁶ In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good.
