

Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 19, 2021
10 am

GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

Preservice Music

Preservice Bumper video

Prelude

Welcome Christmas
Original: Albert Hague ~ arr. Andy Potts

Andy Potts

Welcome

Introit

The Merriest Time of Year
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Escape

Call to Worship

Today we sing of God's mercy and grace shown to all generations.

We bring praise for God's never-ending love and faithfulness.

We rejoice that God's promise of an anointed one—the Messiah—
is about to be fulfilled.

Let every mouth sing of His coming! Let every heart rejoice!

Opening Carol

Angels from the Realms of Glory
Henry Thomas Smart | James Montgomery
Words & Music: Public Domain

UMH#220

Verse 1

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King

Verse 2

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King

Verse 3

Sages leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen his natal star

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King

Verse 4

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord descending in his temple shall appear

Chorus

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Today we light the fourth candle on our Advent wreath - a reminder that Jesus is almost here, and that Christmas comes whether we are ready for it or not. While that may cause some of us a small measure of alarm, it's actually quite a reassuring thing. It means that Jesus' coming isn't dependent on us - and it never was.

When the world was mired in sin, when the people of God had lost their way, Jesus came. Even though the circumstances weren't perfect and the setting was far from ideal, Jesus came.

He came not because of our readiness, or because of our deserving, but because God's relentless love cannot be stopped. And He comes each year, whether we are ready or not, whether we deserve Him or not.

We light this candle in joyful celebration of God's strong, unstoppable love.

At the end of the reading, all pray together:

Almighty God, even though our homes are not ready and our lives are not perfect, we ask that You would come make Your home among us once more. Help us to see that Christmas isn't dependent upon us at all, but upon Your unfailing love. And may the knowledge of that love reach the depths of our hearts and give us a joy that cannot be taken away. Amen.

Response

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Northside Chapel Praise Band
with *King of Heaven*

Charles Wesley | Felix Mendelssohn | Jason Ingram | Paul Baloche

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Verse 1

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Verse 2

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings
Mild he lays His glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Chorus

King of heaven come down; King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day, King of heaven come

King of heaven rise up; Who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name, King of heaven come

Verse 3

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb
Mild he lays His glory by, born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Chorus

King of heaven come down; King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day, King of heaven come
King of heaven rise up; Who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name, King of heaven come

Bridge

King of heaven come, King of heaven come
King of heaven come, King of heaven come

Chorus

King of heaven come down; King of heaven come now
Let Your glory reign shining like the day, King of heaven come
King of heaven rise up; Who can stand against us
You are strong to save in Your mighty name, King of heaven come

A Message for Young Disciples

Linda Morrison

Proclamation and Response

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Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

King Jesus Is His Name

Chancel Singers

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Message

The Heart that Grew Three Sizes: When Joy Is Our Song Pastor Jen Eschliman

Offering Ourselves & Our Gifts to God

Offertory

When Love Was Born

Northside Chapel Praise Band

Bernie Herms | Mark Schultz | Stephanie Lewis

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Closing Prayer

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.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

UMH#246

(vv. 1-2, 4)

George Frideric Handel | Isaac Watts

Words & Music: Public Domain

Verse 1

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Verse 2

Joy to the world the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

Verse 4

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.

Sending Forth

Announcements

Angel Tree donations deadline is today – see Liz Livermore

Christmas Eve Services

Service of the Longest Night – 7pm

Benediction

Postlude

Regent Square (Angels from the Realms of Glory)

Andy Potts

~ Hal H. Hopson