

Worship Guide December 27, 2020

“No peeking till Christmas!” Most of us have been warned that way. We had to wait until it was time to open our gifts. God too had the right time to open His gift to us. It teaches us that God’s timing is the right timing.



Pastor: Gathered as God's people, we come to worship together in the name of the Father and the Son (†) and the Holy Spirit. Sing to the Lord a new song,

C: Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

P: Sing to the Lord, praise his name!

C: For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.

P: Let the heavens be glad,

C: Christ the Savior is born!

PRAYER:

O God, who loved the world so much that you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal the height, breadth, length and depth of your love, we come to worship you. Prepare our hearts that we may rightly approach your throne of grace and reverently receive your revelation for us.

C: Amen

HYMN:

Angels from the Realms of Glory

CW 80

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you 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)**

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear. (Refrain)**



CONFESSION AND PROCLAMATION:

(Psalm 51)

P: Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your loving kindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned. I have done what is evil in Your sight.

P: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.

C: For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offerings. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

P: Hear the good news: God's love for us is truly revealed in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Your sins are forgiven, in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Samuel 7:1-16

It happened that when the king was living in his palace, and when the Lord had given him rest from his enemies all around, ² the king said to Nathan the prophet, "Look, I live in a house of cedar, but the Ark of God sits under tent curtains." ³ Nathan said to the king, "Go and do everything that is in your heart, because the Lord is with you." ⁴ But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan. He said, ⁵ "Go and tell my servant David all these things." This is what the Lord says. Are you the one to build a house for me to live in? ⁶ I have not lived in a house from the day I brought the people of Israel up from Egypt until today. I have been moving around in the Tent and the Dwelling. ⁷ I have traveled everywhere with all the people of Israel. Did I ever speak a word to any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people, or ask them, "Why have you not built a house of cedar for me?" ⁸ You are also to say the following to my servant David. This is what the Lord of Armies says. I took you from the pasture, from following sheep, to be ruler over my people, over Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you went. I have cut off all your enemies from before you. I will make your reputation great, like that of the great ones on the earth. ¹⁰ I will set up a place for my people Israel, and I will plant them there. They will dwell there, and they will not be disturbed again. Violent men will not afflict them again as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and ever since the day I appointed judges over my people Israel. I will give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord also declares to you that the Lord himself will make a house for you. ¹² When your days are complete and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your seed, who will come from your own body. I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he sins, I will discipline him with a rod used by men and with blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵ My faithful mercy will not depart from him as I removed it from Saul, whom I removed to make room for you. ¹⁶ Your house will stand firm, and your kingdom will endure forever before you. Your throne will be established forever.

PSALM 89

P: I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever.

C: With my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations.

P: Yes, I have said, “Your mercy is built to last forever.

C: In the heavens you establish your faithfulness.

EPISTLE LESSON: Galatians 4:1-7

What I am saying is this: As long as the heir is a young child, he is no different from a slave. Although he is owner of everything, ² he is still under guardians and managers until the day set by his father. ³ So also, when we were younger children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. ⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be born under the law, ⁵ in order to redeem those under the law, so that we would be adopted as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts to shout, “*Abba, Father!*” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son. And if you are a son, then you are also an heir of God through Christ.

(see in Yonder Manger Low CW 58)

**See in yonder manger low, born for us on earth below,
See the gentle Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.**

Refrain

**Hail the ever blessed morn; hail redemption’s happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:33–40

Joseph and the child’s mother were amazed at the things that were spoken about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Listen carefully, this child is appointed for the falling and rising of many in Israel and for a sign that is spoken against, ³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” ³⁶ Anna, a prophetess, was there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old. She had lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then she was a widow of eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple complex, since she was worshipping with fasting and prayers night and day. ³⁸ Standing nearby at that very hour, she gave thanks to the Lord. She kept speaking about the child to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had accomplished everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

**Teach, oh, teach us, holy Child, by thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee in thy sweet humility. (Refrain)**

SERMON TEXT: Galatians 4:1-7

GOD’S TIME IS THE RIGHT TIME



I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: (IN UNISON)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as 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, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING:

HYMN

Come Your Hearts and Voices Raising

CW42

**Come, your hearts and voices raising, Christ the Lord with gladness praising;
Loudly sing His love amazing, worthy folk of Christendom.**

**See how God, for us providing, gave His Son and life abiding;
He our weary steps is guiding from earth's woe to heavenly joy.**

**Oh, the joy beyond expressing when by faith we grasp this blessing;
And to Thee we come confessing, that our freedom thou hast wrought!**

SPECIAL PRAYERS