



Christmas Day at Christ Our Redeemer

Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come

December 25, 2016

CALL TO WORSHIP – *“Come Worship and Adore Him”*

COR Choir

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price Music: Don Besig ©1997 Evergreen Morning Press

GATHERING – On this most holy day we “rejoice in the Lord and praise his holy name.” We rejoice with Mary, the shepherds, and the angels. We rejoice with the Holy Christian church. We rejoice as a Christian congregation. We rejoice with our families. Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

CAROL – *“Joy to the World”*

CW 62

CONFESSION AND PRAISE

P: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.

P:: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

P: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

P: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

P: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

P: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!

CAROL OF PRAISE – “To Thee My Heart I Offer”

CW 43 vv 1 & 4

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To thee my heart I of - fer, O Christ - child sweet and dear,
Let me be thine for - ev - er, O Christ - child sweet and dear.



Up - on thy love re - ly - ing; Oh, be thou ev - er near!
Up - hold me with thy mer - cy; Oh, be thou ev - er near!



Take thou my heart and give me thine, And let it be for - ev - er mine,
From thee I glad - ly all re - ceive, And what is mine to thee I give;



O Je - sus, ho - ly, un - de - filed, My Sav - ior meek and mild.
My heart, my soul, and all I own - Let these be thine a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty God, grant that the birth of your one and only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Christmas Lessons

Joy to the world, the Lord has come

OLD TESTAMENT – Isaiah 52:7-10 – *The Joy of sharing Christmas*

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices; together they shout for joy. When the LORD returns to Zion, they will see it with their own eyes. Burst into songs of joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem, for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD will lay bare his holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our God.

EPISTLE – Titus 2:11-14 – *The Joy of living Christmas*

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope--the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

VERSE OF THE DAY Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law. Alleluia.

GOSPEL – John 1:1-14 – *The Joy of the Word made flesh*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world

was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

P: The Christmas Gospel.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON CAROL – “*While Shepherds Lately Knelt*”

CW 54

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Where shep-herds late - ly knelt and kept the an - gel's word,
In that un - like - ly place I find him as they said:
How should I not have known I - sa - iah would be there,
Can I, will I for - get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half - be - lief, a pil - grim strange-ly stirred;
Sweet new-born babe, how frail! and in a man - ger bed,
His proph - e - cies ful-filled? With pound-ing heart I stare:
Its way in - to my heart un - asked, un - forced, un - earned,



But there is room and wel - come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me,



But there is room and wel - come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a - lone for me?

Sermon

Based on Titus 2:11-14 on page 4

CONFESSION OF FAITH – Galatians 4:4-7

P: But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,

C: to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

P: Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.”

C: So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

OFFERING

CAROL – “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

CW 56

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH AND LORD’S PRAYER

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

P: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

P: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

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

MUSICAL SELECTION “*Far Distant a Stable*”

COR Choir

Text: Melvin Rotermund Music: P. Davidson Arranged by Melvin Rotermund ©2000 NPH

BLESSING

CLOSING CAROL – “Let All Together Praise Our God”

CW 41

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Worship services Sundays
at 8 and 10:30a and
Thursdays at 7p

Bible Study and Sunday
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- A warm welcome to our visitors. May the Lord bless your worship with us today. We ask that you please sign the friendship register located at the end of the pew.
- Children – Activity bags are available in the coat room, off the narthex. During our 10:30a service a staffed nursery is located straight ahead and to your left as you exit the sanctuary. While we encourage young children to be in the service, families may like to use the nursery and are invited to do so.
- Please let an usher know if you require a larger print bulletin.
- Our services can also be viewed online. Go to our website corchurch.com and click on Video Broadcast.
- As a member of Christ Our Redeemer we are connected to each other through our unity of faith and the public confession of that faith in Lord's Supper. To read what our profession of faith is, go to www.corchurch.com and click on "Our Beliefs" or take a copy of the tract "What We Believe" in the Visitor Information Center kiosk. To become a member of our church family, please speak with the pastor.