



“For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—he had the honesty and courage to take his own medicine. Whatever the game he is playing with his creation, he has kept his own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that he has not exacted from himself.”

—Dorothy Sayers

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Christian Formation

10:00 Worship

Nursery for Ages 0-5 and Mother's Room: We have a safe and fun nursery located at the end of the hall in the Veritas Cafe. Please follow the signs. We use a Kid Check program for security.

Video: There is a video feed of the worship live-streamed to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway for anyone who needs to step out of the service.

2 Samuel 7:1-11

David expresses his desire to build a house for the Lord. But the Lord does not approve, and instead states on his own initiative that he will establish David's house (i.e., dynasty) eternally, promising him an eternal throne: "And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever" (2 Sam. 7:16).

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 23, 2018 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Call to Worship

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent." Nathan replied to the king, "Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you." But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:

"Go and tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in? I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"'"

"Now then, tell my servant David, 'This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. The Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house.'"

Brother and sisters, David's promised house is found in Christ Jesus our Lord, whom we worship together.

Blessed be the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!!

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

CECIL FRANCES ALEXANDER, 1848



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's__ cit - y stood a
2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is
3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by
4. And our eyes at last shall__ see him, through his



low - ly cat - tle__ shed, where a moth - er laid her__
God and Lord of__ all. And his shel - ter was a__
day like us__ he__ grew. He was lit - tle, weak, and
own re - deem - ing love. For that child, so dear and



ba - by, in a man - ger for__ his__ bed. Mar - y
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a__ stall. With the
help - less; tears and smiles like us__ he__ knew. And he
gen - tle, is our Lord in heav'n a - bove. And he



was that moth - er mild,__ Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.__
poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
leads his chil - dren on,__ to the place where he__ is__ gone.__

Nicene Creed

The Creed

The Nicene Creed is one of the most famous and influential creeds in the history of the church because it settled the question of how Christians can worship one God and also claim that this God is three persons.

It was also the first creed to obtain universal authority in the church, and it improved the language of the Apostles' Creed by including more specific statements about the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit.

What we call the Nicene Creed is actually the product of two ecumenical councils—one in Nicaea (present-day Iznik, Turkey) in AD 325, and one in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in AD 381—and a century of debate over the nature of the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Christian, what do you believe?

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and he will come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Opening Prayer

EXULT IN THE SAVIOR'S BIRTH

MATT BOSWELL, DA CARSON, 2013



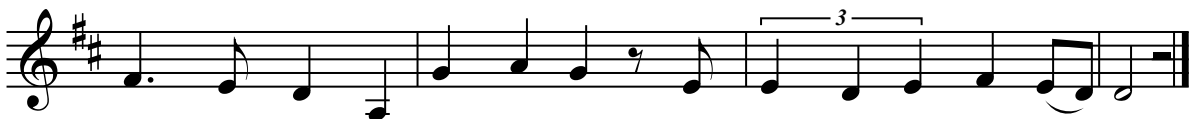
1. Shep-herds watched their flocks at night at - tend - ing low - ly sheep.
2. Pa - gan wise men from the East, seek out the in - fant King.
3. For to us a child is born, to us a son is giv'n.
4. Scrip-tures say that Mar - y's boy was born that he might die.



Now with - in a cat - tle shed a much strang-er watch they keep.
Track-less miles be-hind them lie and now all their rev - 'rence bring.
He shall reign in right-eous-ness, this Coun - sel - lor King from heav'n.
An - gel voic-es burst in praise, their har - mon - y fills the sky.



To - day a Sav - ior has been born and he is Christ, the Lord.
They have come to wor - ship him with spi - ces and with gold.
The gov - ern - ment shall rest on him, he is the might - y God.
*Sing "Glo - ry in the high - est heav'n", sing "Gra-cious peace on earth."



Placed with - in a hum - ble trough, this ba - by must be a - dored.
Count-less mil - lions seek him still whose ad - vent was long fore-told.
Prince of Peace, this gen - tle King, yet rules with a might-y__ rod.
Those on whom his fav - or rests, ex - ult in the Sav - ior's birth.

*(4x repeat to *)*

Confession of Sin

**Almighty God who inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before you and our Lord Jesus Christ
we confess our sins.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

**In your great goodness
put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming your royal degree;
But of lowly birth you came to earth,
And in great humility.

The foxes found rest, and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But your couch was the sod, O Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.

You came, O Lord, with the living Word,
That should set your people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn,
They bore you to Calvary.

When the heav'ns shall ring, and her choirs shall sing,
At your coming to victory,
Let your voice call me home, saying "Yet there is room,
There is room at my side for thee."

—Emily Elliott, 1864

GOD REST YE MERRY GENTLEMEN

ENGLISH CAROL, 18TH CENT.



1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let no - thing you dis - may,
2. From God our Heav'n - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came;
3. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem-ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
and with true love and broth-er-hood each oth - er now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas all oth - er does ef - face.



O — tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and joy,



O — tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

HOW GREAT OUR JOY

TRADITIONAL GERMAN CAROL



1. While by the sheep _____ we watched at night,
2. There shall be born, _____ so he did say,
3. There shall a child _____ lie in a stall,
4. This gift of God _____ we'll cher - ish well,



glad tid - ings brought _____ an an - gel bright. _____
in Beth - le - hem _____ a child to - day.
this child who shall _____ re - deem us all.
that ev - er joy _____ our hearts shall fill.



How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!



Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering

The offering is part of our regular worship. Our hope is that all gifts offered will come from an understanding that we give because God first gave to us, and that every penny will be carefully and thoughtfully invested in cultivating faith in Jesus Christ.

Prayers for the Church and World

Passing of the Peace

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon Series
*Luke: the Gospel of
Amazement*

Sermon

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

“Angels Sing”
Rev. Brad Chaney

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors, and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,
who gave your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
for our salvation: the Supreme Gift!

Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with angels and archangels
and with all the company of heaven,
who for ever sing this hymn
to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

All glory and blessing are yours, our holy God,
for in your mercy you gave your Son.

**Dying, you destroyed our death;
rising, you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on this sacramental meal,
that in eating and drinking we may be made one with
Christ and one another.

Communion

Wine is available in the inner two circles; grape juice is available in the outer ring. Gluten-free wafers are available in a basket on the back table.

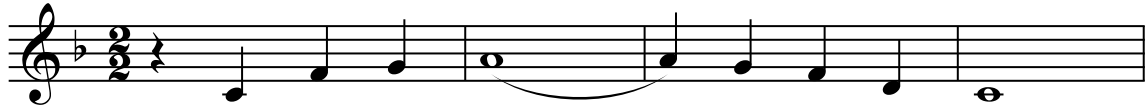
We hold the bread and wine until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

We ask that you dispense with your cups by the back door following the service.

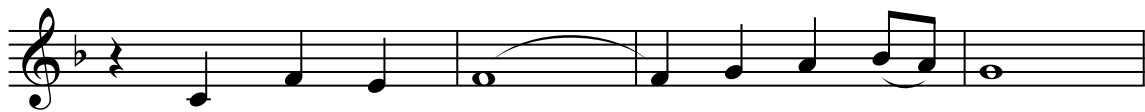
Just as the climax of all history will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, we conclude our worship in the presence of God by feasting. The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.

ALL PRAISE TO YOU ETERNAL LORD

MARTIN LUTHER, 1524



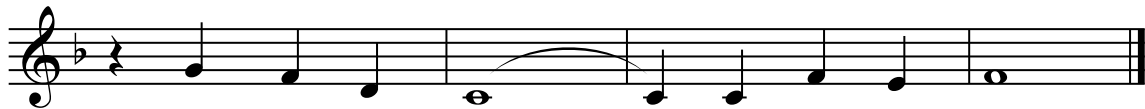
1. All praise to you, _____ E - ter - nal Lord,
2. Once all the skies _____ be - fore you bowed,
3. You come to us _____ in dark - est night
4. All this for us _____ your love has done,



clothed in a robe _____ of flesh and blood.
a vir - gin's arms _____ con - tain you now.
to make us child - - ren of your light,
by this to you _____ our love is _____ won.



You chose a man - - ger _____ for your throne,
An - gels who did _____ in _____ you re - jice
to make us in _____ the _____ realms di - vine,
We sing of grace, _____ and your glor - ious ways



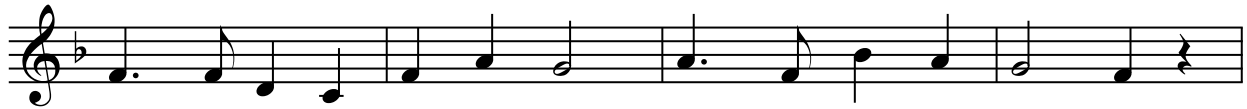
Though end - less worlds _____ are yours a - lone.
now lis - ten to _____ your in - fant voice.
like your own an - - - gels 'round you shine.
and shout our thanks _____ in end - less praise.

JOY HAS DAWNED

KEITH GETTY, STUART TOWNEND, 2004



1. Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion:
2. Son of A - dam, Son of Heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
re - con - cil - ing God and man: Christ our might - y Cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
What a Sav - ior, what a Friend, what a glo - rious mys - t'ry:



but a hum - ble gift of love: Je - sus born of Ma - ry.
once a babe in Beth - le - hem, now the Lord of his - t'ry.



Joy has dawned up - on the world!

Sending and Benediction

Let us go forth and serve the world as those who love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you; wherever he may send you; may he guide you through the wilderness; protect you through the storm; and may he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has done.