

HOPE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



THE CHURCH GATHERS FOR WORSHIP

1st Sunday after Christmas

January 1, 2012

10:30 AM

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

RINGING THE BELL

PRELUDE "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

-Setting by Paul Manz

(Indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.)*

WORDS OF GATHERING *(Inspired by Isaiah 61:10-11)* **bold type indicates congregational response)**

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord!

My soul shall exult in my God,

Who has clothed me with the garments of salvation,

And has covered me with a robe of righteousness.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots

So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.

Let us worship the Lord with joy!

Once in Royal David's City

145

Cecil F. Alexander, 1848; alt.

Luke 1:26-35; 2:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2 Je - sus came to earth from heav - en, who is God and Head of all,
 3 And through all this won - drous child - hood Je - sus hon - ored and o - beyed,
 4 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly like us lived and grew,
 5 We at last shall meet our Sav - ior, fount of God's re - deem - ing grace,

Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed:
 Shel - tered in a rus - tic sta - ble, cra - dled in a com - mon stall;
 Loved and watched the ten - der moth - er whose strong arms a cra - dle made.
 Je - sus, lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew.
 For that Child so dear and gen - tle reigns with - in a glo - rious place;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 With the poor and meek and low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 So, like Je - sus, we should be serv - ing God o - be - dient - ly.
 Je - sus felt the pain of sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
 Lead - ing all God's chil - dren on to the heaven where saints have gone.

Cecil Frances Alexander, wife of the bishop of Ireland, wrote a series of children's hymns commenting on the Apostles' Creed. This hymn, elaborating on the words "... born of the Virgin Mary," tells the whole life of Christ.

Tune: IRBY 8.7.8.7.7.7.
Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849
Harm. A. H. Mann, 1919

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (1)

God of all creation, in the Christ child you came among us as a light shining in the darkness. We confess that we have at times not trusted ourselves to be good enough to walk in your light and turned our eyes away from what you illumine. We have closed our eyes to the good news and miracles in our midst, expecting little and hoping for less. Forgive our close-mindedness, our doubt and our fear. Renew our hope so that we may see the fullness of your grace, and live in trust of your promises fulfilled.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*PASSING THE PEACE

THE WORD

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

Ed Zumwinkel III

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

Pew Bible p. 833

SERMON

Emma Dobson

SILENCE AND REFLECTION

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY (#782 *New Century Hymnal*)

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
To Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise
Our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever giving Lord, thank you for sending your Son, the greatest and most treasured gift, into this world. Help us to understand what it means to give as you give to us- without hesitation or reservation, without putting our concern for our own wants before your call to attend to the needs of others. Bless these tithes and offerings that they may be a step toward that understanding, helping us to listen and respond to your movement in our lives. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (1) (**bold type indicates congregational response**)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

prayer continues...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of angels who proclaimed in joy at Christ's birth, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

prayer continues...

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

prayer continues...

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF GOD'S PEOPLE

CONCLUDING PRAYER (1)

Empower us by your spirit, O God, to be your presence in the world, even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to recognize your Holy Spirit moving within and among us, to speak your truth, to seek your justice, and to live infused by your love. Keep us faithful in your service until Christ comes again in victory and we feast with all the saints in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

German and Latin, 14th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.

Descant

3 Good Chris - tian friends, re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
 God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -

last - ing hall. Christ was born, Christ was born to save!

man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!
 ev - er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!
 last-ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTON

*POSTLUDE "Now We Sing of Christmas" -Setting by Gordon Young

THE CHURCH DISPERSES TO SERVE

Worship Endnotes

- (1) Adapted from Book of Common Worship, PCUSA, 1993
- (2) Adapted from Seasons of the Spirit, 2011.
- (3) Adapted from Iona Abbey Worship Book, Iona Community, 2001

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SERMON REFLECTIONS

What images, thoughts, connections or questions, arose for you as you experienced worship today? Use the space below to write or draw or “doodle” those reflections.