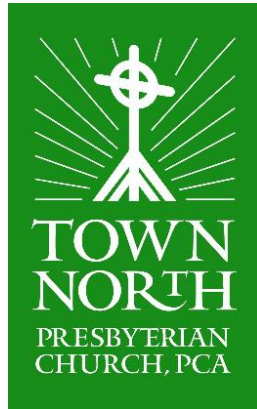


*Town North is a community of disciples
making disciples of Jesus.*



Tonight's Order of
WORSHIP
for
Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 • 6:00 P.M.



Reflection

“The only monarch who ever deserved that man should fall down before him was a child of poverty, whose life was spent in teaching, and who died an ignominious death.”

-Martin Luther, quoted in: John Broadus, *Commentary on Matthew*, (2:11) Judson Press, 1886, p. 21.

Prelude

Lynna Harbison

(Church elders will be available in the front to pray personally with anyone during the prelude)

Opening Prayer

Pastor David Rogers

Call to Worship for Advent

The Hopper Family

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

Based on Revelation 11:15

The kingdom of the world will become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

*** Hymn of Praise**

Hymn 193 (vv.1-4)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

1
Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2
King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
he will give to all the faithful
his own self for heav'nly food.

3
Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth
from the realms of endless day,
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish
as the darkness clears away.

4
At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Message

Pastor David Rogers

"Two Ways To Live"

Luke 1:31-33

*** Responding to God's Word**

Hymn 213 (vv 1-3)

What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

2 Why lies he in such mean estate,
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you:
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby:
joy, joy for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Scripture Reading

Elder David Hitt

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**** Hymn of Reflection***

Hymn 202 (vv 1-4)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
above the thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Scripture Reading

Elder David Schlimme

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

*** Hymn of Reflection**

Hymn 214 (vv 1-3)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria
in excelsis Deo,
gloria,
in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
which inspire your heav'nly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Scripture Reading

Elder Wayne Bowman

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Candle Lighting

*** Hymn of Reflection**

Hymn 210 (vv 1-4)

Silent Night

**1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**2 Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly host sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**3 Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy
face,
with the dawn of redeeming
grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**4 Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing
alleluia to our King;**

*** Benediction**

based on Luke 1:32-33; 2:11, 14

PASTOR: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

He has been given the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

PEOPLE: **Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**

Postlude

Lynna Harbison

