

All: O come, let us adore him.

One: Magi brought their gifts.

All: O come, let us adore him.

One: What shall we do?

All: O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

#113

**Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?**

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*(Words & Music: Angels We Have Heard on High; French Carol,
trans. James Chadwick, Public Domain.)*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray:

All: When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Lord. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing and forgiving, let your grace consume us, O God. When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer. When our complacency leads to inaction, move us to seek justice for brothers and sisters. We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. We are but dust without your love. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another. Amen.

(Time for Silent Confession)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI** *“Glory Be to the Father”* #581

**Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now, and ever shall be,
World without end.
Amen, amen.**

(Words & Music: Glory Be to the Father; Trad. Liturgical text, Public Domain.)

CHILDREN’S SERMON

Toni Howell

SONG *"Jesus Loves Me!" (vs.1)* #188

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to Him belong; they are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

(Words & Music: Jesus Loves Me!; by Anna Bartlett Warner, Public Domain.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Evelyn Fox

Mighty God, the shepherds of Bethlehem left the stable glorifying and praising you for all they had seen, as it had been told them. As we open Scripture today, by your Holy Spirit, fill us with such wonder and amazement before your Word, that we will go from this place glorifying and praising God for all that has been told us. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Evelyn Fox

Psalm 148

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!*

Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

*Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.*

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

“We Three Kings of Orient Are”

#151

**We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising,
worshiping God Most High.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

**Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!**

(Words & Music: We Three Kings of Orient Are; by John Henry Hopkins Jr., Public Domain.)

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Christmas with Herod"

Rev. Dr. Bill Pederson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIFTS OF TITHE AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY

"Gesù Bambino"

Sung by Ernie Sydow

(Words and Music: Gesù Bambino, by Pietro Yon, Public Domain.)

***DOXOLOGY**

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#609

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Therefore we praise you...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All Sing: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!**

One: Remembering...to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service. Christ is the bread of life:

All: When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come in glory.

One: Through Christ...now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE 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; and lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

COMMUNION MUSIC

*“Angels We Have Heard on High, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,
Away in a Manger”*

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It Came Upon a Midnight Clear & Away in a Manger, arr. Jenifer Cook,
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Jenifer Cook, to podcast/stream in this service.)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Psalm 103:1,2

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: And all that is within me, bless God’s holy name!

One: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

All: And forget not all God’s benefits.

***HYMN**

“What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright”

#152

**What star is this, with beams so bright,
more lovely than the noonday light?
'Tis sent to announce a newborn king,
glad tidings of our God to bring.**

**'Tis now fulfilled what God decreed,
“From Jacob shall a star proceed”;
and lo! the eastern sages stand
to read in heaven the Lord’s command.**

While outward signs the star displays,

**an inward light the Lord conveys
and urges them, with tender might,
to seek the giver of the light.**

**O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek your face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of your light to use.**

*(Words & Music: What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright; by Charles Coffin,
trans. John Chandler, Public Domain.)*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Silent Night”

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