

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NO VERSE BY VERSE - December 25, January 1

There will be no Verse by Verse Bible study on December 25 and January 1 for Christmas. Verse by verse will resume again on January 8.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - December 24

At 5 PM, December 24, join us as we celebrate Christmas Eve together. In addition to traditional candelit singing and music from Christ Church Kids, the gospel will be preached from Matthew 1:18-25. There will be no childcare provided.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED - December 23 - January 1

The church offices will be closed December 23 to January 1 for Christmas. Those who have need of assistance may email info@christchurchwc.org during that time.

EVENING SERVICE - January 12

Please make plans to join us for our next evening service on January 12 at 5 PM. Childcare will be provided for this service.

ACADEMY: NEW TESTAMENT I - January 19 - April 13

Our next Academy class will offer a survey of the books and themes of the New Testament, with part 1 of the course beginning on January 19 and concluding on April 13. It will meet downstairs on Sundays from 8:40 AM - 9:40 AM. Childcare will be available. To sign up, please use the sign up sheet at the connection center or contact Isaac Whitney at isaac@christchurchwc.org.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS - January 19 - April 13

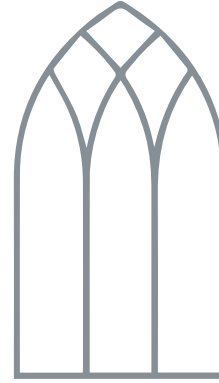
Our three-part membership class will be offered on Sunday mornings from January 19 to April 13 downstairs, from 8:40 AM to 9:40 AM. Childcare is available upon request.

SUNDAY NIGHT THEOLOGY - January 26

Our upcoming SNT lecture will take place on Sunday, January 26, at 5 PM. Dr. Michael Lawrence, pastor at Hinson Baptist Church in Portland, Oregon, will deliver a lecture on conversion. Childcare will be provided during the lecture. For more information on Sunday Night Theology, please visit our website.

**200 SOUTH CHURCH STREET
WEST CHESTER, PA 19382**

info@christchurchwc.org | (610) 344-9332



**CHRIST
CHURCH
WEST CHESTER**

Service of Divine worship on the morning of
DECEMBER 22, 2024

PREPARATION SONG
All My Heart This Night Rejoices

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP
Psalm 29:1-2

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*Angels We Have Heard On High
Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending*

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Joy To The World

SCRIPTURE READING
Micah 5:1-15

Angels From The Realms Of Glory

CONFESSIONAL READING
Athanasian Creed, IV

PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING
Hebrews 1:1-14

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS
The Doxology

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

SERMON
Luke 2:1-21

THE LORD'S SUPPER
Behold The Lamb

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

BENEDICTION
1 Peter 1:12-13

PREACHER: DR. RAYMOND JOHNSON
PRESIDING MINISTER: TIMOTHY GARBER

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

VERSE 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies!
With th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

VERSE 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time, behold Him come: offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see. Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

VERSE 3

Come, Desire of nations, come; fix in us Thy humble home
Rise, the woman's conqu'ring seed; bruise in us the serpent's
head
Adam's likeness now efface. Stamp Thine image in its place
Second Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy love
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

VERSE 4

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace; hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings; ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by. Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

CCLI Song # 27738

Words: Charles Wesley & George Whitefield | Music: Felix Mendelssohn
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BEHOLD THE LAMB

VERSE 1

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away, slain for us
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith find forgiveness at the cross
So we share in this Bread of Life and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King

VERSE 2

The body of our Savior Jesus Christ, torn for you
Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life
Paid the price to make us one
So we share in this bread of life and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of love around the table of the King

VERSE 3

The blood that cleanses every stain of sin, shed for you
Drink and remember;
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God
So we share in this bread of life and we drink of His sacrifice
As a sign of our bonds of grace around the table of the King

VERSE 4

And so, with thankfulness and faith, we rise to respond
And to remember our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth
As we share in His suffering, we proclaim Christ will come again
And we'll join in the feast of heaven around the table of the King

CCLI Song # 5003372
Words & Music by Stuart Townend & Keith Getty
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ALL MY HEART THIS NIGHT REJOICES

VERSE 1

All my heart this night rejoices,
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,
Till the air, every-where, now their joy is ringing.

VERSE 2

Forth today the Conqu'ror goeth,
Who the foe, sin and woe, death and hell, o'erthroweth.
God is man, man to deliver;
His dear Son now is one with our blood fore-ver.

VERSE 3

Shall we still dread God's displeasure,
Who, to save, freely gave his most cherished Treasure?
To re-deem us, he hath given
His own Son from the throne of his might in heaven.

VERSE 4

He becomes the Lamb that taketh
Sin away and for aye full atonement maketh.
For our life his own he tenders;
And our race, by his grace, fit for glory renders.

VERSE 5

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,
Soft and sweet, doth en-treat, "Flee from woe and danger;
Brethren, come; from all that grieves you
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

VERSE 6

Come, then, banish all your sadness;
One and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness,
Love Him Who with love is glowing;
Hail the star, near and far, light and joy bestowing.

VERSE 7

Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish.
Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish.
But with thee abide forever
There on high, in that joy which can vanish never.

CCLI Song # 482775
Words by Paul Gerhardt | Music by Catherine Winkworth

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

VERSE 1

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains, in reply
Echoing their joyous strains

REFRAIN

Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

VERSE 2

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

VERSE 3

Come to Bethlehem and see:
Christ, whose birth the angels sing
Come adore, on bended knee:
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King

VERSE 4

See Him in a manger laid:
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid
While our hearts, in love, we raise

CCLI Song # 27721

Traditional French carol arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes

Translated by James Chadwick | © Public Domain

SERMON NOTES

(A NOT SO) SILENT NIGHT:

WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT

LUKE 2:1-21 | DR. RAYMOND JOHNSON

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
Amen

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

VERSE 1

Let all mortal flesh keep silence and with fear and trembling stand
Ponder nothing worldly minded, for, with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand

VERSE 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

VERSE 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

VERSE 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!

CCLI Song # 6227463

Words & Music by Gerald Moultrie & Fernando Ortega | © 2010 Cerdo Verde Music

LO! HE COMES WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

VERSE 1

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of His train
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign

VERSE 2

Every eye shall now behold Him, robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold Him, pierced and nailed Him to the tree:
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing
Shall their true Messiah see

VERSE 3

Those dear tokens of His passion still His dazzling body bears,
Cause of endless exultation to His ransomed worshippers.
With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture
Gaze we on those glorious scars!

VERSE 4

Yea, Amen! Let all adore Thee, high on Thine eternal throne
Savior, take the power and glory; claim the kingdom for Thine own
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Thou shalt reign and Thou alone

CCLI Song # 2648462 | Words by Charles Wesley & John Cennick
Music attributed to Martin Madan, Thomas Augustine Arne, or Thomas Olivers
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CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

PSALM 51:1-4 (ESV)

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame."

ROMANS 10:9-11 (ESV)

SCRIPTURE READING

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end." And to which of the angels has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?

HEBREWS 1:1-14 (ESV)

CONFESSIONAL READING

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic* faith; Which faith, unless everyone keep holy and undefiled, without doubt they shall perish forever. And the catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead; He ascended into heaven, He sits on the right hand of the Father, God, Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies; and shall give account of their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting and they that have done evil into everlasting fire. This is the catholic faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved.

THE ATHANASIAN CREED (PART IV) 500 AD

JOY TO THE WORLD

VERSE 1

Joy to the world! The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing

VERSE 2

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

VERSE 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as, far as the curse is found

VERSE 4

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love

CCLI Song # 24016
Words by Isaac Watts | Music by G.F. Handel
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*Catholic here refers to the universal church, not the Roman Catholic Church.

SCRIPTURE READING

Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land and treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princes of men; they shall shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; and he shall deliver us from the Assyrian when he comes into our land and treads within our border. Then the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the Lord, like showers on the grass, which delay not for a man nor wait for the children of man. And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of many peoples, like a lion among the beasts of the forest, like a young lion among the flocks of sheep, which, when it goes through, treads down and tears in pieces, and there is none to deliver. Your hand shall be lifted up over your adversaries, and all your enemies shall be cut off. And in that day, declares the Lord, I will cut off your horses from among you and will destroy your chariots; and I will cut off the cities of your land and throw down all your strongholds; and I will cut off sorceries from your hand, and you shall have no more tellers of fortunes; and I will cut off your carved images and your pillars from among you, and you shall bow down no more to the work of your hands; and I will root out your Asherah images from among you and destroy your cities. And in anger and wrath I will execute vengeance on the nations that did not obey.

MICAH 5:1-15 (ESV)

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

VERSE 1

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth!

CHORUS

Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

VERSE 2

Shepherds in the field abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with us is now residing!
Yonder shines the infant light

VERSE 3

Though an infant now we view Him
He shall fill His Father's throne
Gather all the nations to Him
Every knee shall then bow down

VERSE 4

All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son!
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One

CCLI Song # 31669

Words by James Montgomery | Music by Henry Thomas Smart

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