



PRE-SERVICE DEVOTION

Psalm 2:1-12

Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing? 2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. 5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: 6 “Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion.” 7 “I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ “ 10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.


SERVICE OF THE WORD

Speakers: Pastor Matthew Ude

Organists: Barry Hay & Ann Sprengeler

Choir Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 713 — Your Little Ones Dear Lord Are We

c  Your little ones, dear Lord, are we
 And come Your lowly bed to see;
 Enlighten ev'ry soul and mind
 That we the way to You may find.

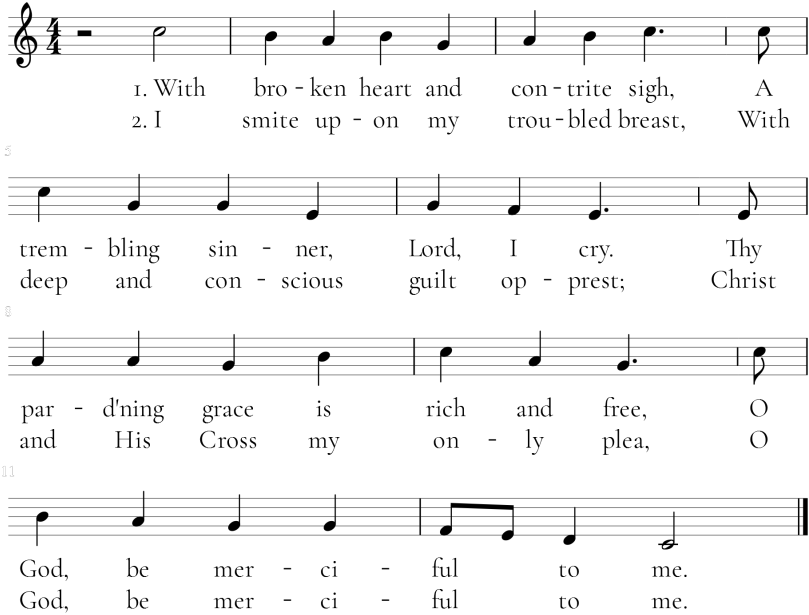
With songs we hasten You to greet
 And humbly fall before your feet.
 Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
 That gave You birth, our souls' delight.

Oh, draw us wholly to You, Lord,
 To us Your constant grace accord;
 True faith and love to us impart
 That we may hold You in our heart.

Until at last we, too, proclaim,
 With all Your saints, Your glorious name;
 In paradise our songs renew
 And praise You as the angels do.

CONFESSION


Hymn 323:1,2 — sung to From Heaven Above



1. With bro - ken heart and con - trite sigh, A
2. I smite up - on my trou - bled breast, With
trem - bling sin - ner, Lord, I cry. Thy
deep and con - scious guilt op - prest; Christ
par - d'ning grace is rich and free, O
and His Cross my on - ly plea, O
God, be mer - ci - ful to me.
God, be mer - ci - ful to me.

ABSOLUTION

Hymn — 85:1-4

- c  “From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:


“To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

“This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

“He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

GLORIA

Hymn — 85:13-15

c  Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee.

My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

p Most merciful God, You gave Your eternal Word to become incarnate of the pure Virgin. Grant Your people grace to put away fleshly lusts, that they may be ready for Your visitation; through Jesus Christ your son, our Lord, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Ghost, one God, forevermore.


THE WORD

Matthew 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.” 24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, 25 and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

1 John 4:7-16 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. 11 Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 12 No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. 13 By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

CREED

Hymn — 98

c  Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

Oh, that birth forever blessed
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Savior of our race,
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face
Evermore and evermore.


O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,

Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

This is He whom Heaven-taught singers
Sang of old with one accord;
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word.
Now He shines, the Long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
And unending praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory
Evermore and evermore.

Hymn 715 — Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

c  Where shepherds lately knelt
and kept the angel's word,
I come in half belief,

a pilgrim strangely stirred,
but there is room and welcome there for me,
but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place
I find him as they said:
sweet newborn babe, how frail!
and in a manger bed,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me,
a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known
Isaiah would be there,
his prophecies fulfilled?
With pounding heart I stare:
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I forget
how love was born, and burned
its way into my heart
unasked, unforced, unearned,
to die, to live, and not alone for me,
to die, to live, and not alone for me?

SERMON


Isaiah 7:10-14 Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” ¹³ Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

IMMANUEL: A PROMISE TO HOLD

Ahaz was outwardly very religious, yet without any faith in the word or promise of God. Immanuel, “and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” This is a child and a promise worth grasping. God is with us.


OFFERTORY

Hymn 106:1,7

c  The people that in darkness sat
A glorious light have seen;
The light has shined on them who long
In shades of death have been.

Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one.

Hymn 707 — On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

c  On Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing
to hear the news the angels bring:
news of great joy, news of great mirth,
news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad?
Then why should we on earth be sad,
since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin He set us free,
all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;

all out of darkness we have light,
 which made the angels sing this night:
 “Glory to God and peace to men
 now and forevermore. Amen.”

OFFERING AND OFFERING HYMN 89:4,5

1. With all my heart and being, O Christ child sweet and dear,
 2. Let me be Thine for - ev - er, O Christ child sweet and dear;

I love Thee, and Thee on - ly; Oh, be Thou ev - er near!
 Up - hold me with Thy mer - cy, And be Thou ev - er near.

My heart I in Thy man - ger lay; Let it re - main there and for aye
 From Thee I gls - dly all re - cieve, And what is mine to Thee I give,

Draw it to Thee that it may be se - cure e - ter - nal - ly.
 My heart, my soul, and all I own. Let these be Thine a - lone.

PRAYERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER


all 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power
and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

p The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make
His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
and give you peace.

c  A-men A-men A-men.

Hymn 94 — Hark The Herald Angels Sing

c  Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim.
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored.
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as Man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail, the heavenly Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He leaves His throne on high,
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 new-born King!”

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the new-born King!”