

Sunday, January 2, 2022

The Mystery Made Known

Prelude: *Hymnal #82 Angels We Have Heard on High (instrumental)*
(Words & Music: Public Domain)

GATHERING

Welcome

Good morning and welcome to worship. We pray that each of us will find joy and find Jesus as we worship today.

As we stand at the beginning of a new year, we are called to worship Christ--the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end--with words that bring us back to the very beginning. Hear God's word from John 1.

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle: John 1:1-18 [*for three voices or just one*]

Leader: In the beginning was the Word,

B: *and the Word was with God,*

C: *and the Word was God.*

Leader: He was with God in the beginning.

B: *Through him all things were made;*

C: *without him nothing was made that has been made.*

Leader: In him was life, and that life was the light of all people.

B: [*as the Christ candle is lit*] *The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

[*the readers can pause to acknowledge the light*]

All: The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Leader: We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son,

B: *who came from the Father,*

C: *full of grace and truth.*

*Songs:

Hymnal #76 O Come All Ye Faithful

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Greeting

Leader: New Life. New Hope. New Joy. Happy New Year! Today we continue to celebrate the birth of the Messiah. The season of Advent is over. Yet as we live in the "already but the not yet", we keep longing and hoping for all things to be made new. In this new year we may encounter joys and sorrows, division and unity, but we know that God is with us.

And God greets us.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen
-2 Corinthians 13:14

***Song of Praise:**

Hymnal #770 In Christ Alone
(CCLI Song #3350395 - CCLI License #2024198 - Streaming License #20536380)

RENEWAL

Call to Confession

Leader:

As we wait for Christ's return,
as we, along with all creation, groan,
we approach God's throne with confidence, through Christ our Messiah.
Let us bring to God our confessions and laments.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Lord God, your Word tells us that through Jesus you bring all things together in unity. But we sometimes feel as if all things are falling apart.

All: Direct our lives and restore our hope with your good news.

Leader: Lord God, your Word tells us that you have made known to us the mystery of your will. Yet we don't always understand and impatiently ask for clarity.

All: Direct our lives and restore our hope with your good news.

Leader: Lord God, your Word tells us that you have adopted us as your children.
But often we feel alone and forgotten.

All: Direct our lives and restore our hope with your good news.

Forgive us for our arrogance, our lack of faith, and our impatience.

Make us grateful for your promises even as we work and wait. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: *Hear the good news, also from John 1.*

Leader: There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

All: Thanks be to God!

Song of Thanksgiving:

Hymnal #92 Joy to the World

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WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Ephesians 1:1-14

Sermon: “The Mystery Made Known”

Rev. Joel Kok, Covenant CRC, Sioux Centre, Iowa

***Song of Response:**

Hymnal #232 Come, Holy Ghost

(CCLI Song #4696625 / CCLI License #2024198 - Streaming License #20536380)

Prayers for the Church and the World

God Receives our Offerings

First offering: FHCRC Resource and Ministry Plan

Second Offering: Beginnings Family Services

SENDING

Words of Hope: Jeremiah 31:7-14 [*for three voices or just one*]

Leader: God's word for us today has led us to ponder the spiritual blessings in Christ. It leads us to imagine them in earth-y terms too. With the Israelites returning from exile, we leave imagining the bounteous grace of God. From Jeremiah 31:7-14.

All: This is what the Lord says:

A: “Sing with joy for Jacob;
shout for the foremost of the nations.

B: Make your praises heard, and say,
‘Lord, save your people,
the remnant of Israel.’

C: See, I will bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the ends of the earth.

A: Among them will be the blind and the lame,
expectant mothers and women in labor;
a great throng will return.

B: They will come with weeping;
they will pray as I bring them back.

C: I will lead them beside streams of water
on a level path where they will not stumble,
because I am Israel's father,
and Ephraim is my firstborn son.

A: "Hear the word of the Lord, you nations;
proclaim it in distant coastlands:
'He who scattered Israel will gather them
and will watch over his flock like a shepherd.'

B: *For the Lord will deliver Jacob
and redeem them from the hand of those stronger than they.*

C: *They will come and shout for joy on the heights of Zion;
they will rejoice in the bounty of the Lord—*

A: the grain, the new wine and the olive oil,
the young of the flocks and herds.

B: *They will be like a well-watered garden,
and they will sorrow no more.*

C: *Then young women will dance and be glad,
young men and old as well.*

A,B,C: I will turn their mourning into gladness;
I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.

B: *I will satisfy the priests with abundance,
and my people will be filled with my bounty,"*

A,B,C: declares the Lord.

***Benediction**

Leader:

God has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.
—from Micah 6:8, NIV

***Song:**

Hymnal #482 Soon and Very Soon
(CCLI Song #112496 - CCLI License #2024198 - CCLI Streaming License #20536380)

Postlude: *Hymnal #84 Ere zij God / Glory to God*

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(Translation: CCLI Song #287396 - CCLI License #2024198 - CCLI Streaming License #20536380)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Descant

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;
G Am7 D G C G D

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 God of ___ God, ___ Light of Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;
Em A D G D A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!
lo, he ab - hors not the vir - gin's womb;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove:
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;
G Am G D Em D

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
"Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!"
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Words: attr. John F. Wade, 1743; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others, P.D.

Music (ADESTE FIDELES irregular): attr. John F. Wade, 1743; desc. © 1947 *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, admin. Hope Publishing Company

O come, O come,

Refrain G D7 G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

G D A D C G D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

In Christ Alone

G D G A Bm

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh— full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

G Em7 A D G D G

light, my strength, my song— this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe!— this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 power of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fin - al

A Bm G Em7 A D

ground, firm through the fier - est drought and storm. What heights of
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save. 'Til on the
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain! And as he
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny. No power of

G D A D G Bm7

love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings
 cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -
 stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on
 hell, no hu - man plan, can ev - er pluck me from his

A G D G A

cease. My com - fort - er, my all in all,
 fied. For ev - ery sin on him was laid;
 me; for I am his and he is mine,
 hand; 'til he re - turns or calls me home,

Bm G Em7 A D

here in the love of Christ I stand.
 here in the death of Christ I live.
 bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 here in the power of Christ I'll stand!

Joy to the World

PSALM 98

D A7 D G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D

King. Let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 play, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re -
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness and

A

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

D D/A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
heaven and na - ture sing,

For another setting of Ps. 98 see 547

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719, P.D.

Music (ANTIOCH 8.6.8.6.6.8): Lowell Mason, 1848, P.D.

Come, Holy Ghost

Chords: Dm F C

1 Come, Ho - ly Ghost, Cre - a - tor blest, and in our
 2 O Com-fort - er, to thee we cry, thou heaven - ly
 3 O Ho - ly Ghost, through thee a - lone, know we the
 4 Praise we the Lord: Fa - ther and Son, and Ho - ly

Chords: Gsus G Dm

hearts take up thy rest; come with thy grace
 gift of God most high; thou fount of life,
 Fa - ther and the Son; be this our firm
 Spir - it with them one; and may the Son

Chords: F C Gsus G

and heaven - ly aid to fill our hearts which thou hast made,
 and fire of love, and sweet a - noint - ing from a - bove,
 un - chang - ing creed, that thou dost from them both pro - ceed,
 on us be - stow all gifts that from the Spir - it flow,

Chords: Bb Fsus F

to fill our hearts which thou hast made.
 and sweet a - noint - ing from a - bove.
 that thou dost from them both pro - ceed.
 all gifts that from the Spir - it flow.

Refrain G *Dm Echo F

Be not a - fraid. Be not a - fraid.

C Last time repeat as desired G Fine

Where you go there I am with you.

Dm Bb2 Bb Fsus F To stanzas

Optional instrumental interlude

Optional ending: bracketed portion of the stanza can be sung layered with the Refrain, coming in at the *asterisk.

Soon and Very Soon

F B^b/F F

1,4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 2 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 3 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

C7 C9 F

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

B^b/F F

Soon and ver - y soon, we are going to see the King!
 No more cry - ing there— we are going to see the King!
 No more dy - ing there— we are going to see the King!

F7 Gm/B^b Gm7(b5) F/C C7 F To stanzas

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah! We're going to see the King!

Optional interlude and final ending G7 C7 F G7 C7 F

Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!