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LORD'S DAY EVENING WORSHIP

December 22, 2024



GOD GATHERS HIS PEOPLE

Prelude *A time to be quiet and prepare for holy worship. When the music begins, please take your seats.*

Welcome

Announcements

Silent Reflection

Salutation and Call to Worship

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

* Opening Carol

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear # 200 Trinity Hymnal (all verses)

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King"; the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low, who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow, look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing: O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

* Invocation

Reading of God's Law

Confession of Sin

Assurance of Pardon

We Petition God

GOD SPEAKS HIS WORD TO HIS PEOPLE

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Luke 2:8-14(p 1018 pew Bible) Ephesians 3:8-12 (p 1160 pew Bible)

Congregational Prayer

Sermon

Our Christmas Joy Is Too Earthbound

Prayer of Application

* Closing Carol

All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord # 219 *Trinity Hymnal* (all verses)

1 All praise to thee, eternal Lord, clothed in a garb of flesh and blood; choosing a manger for thy throne, while worlds on worlds are thine alone.

2 Once did the skies before thee bow; a virgin's arms contain thee now: angels who did in thee rejoice now listen for thine infant voice.

3 A little child, thou art our guest, that weary ones in thee may rest; forlorn and lowly is thy birth, that we may rise to heav'n from earth.

4 Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light, to make us, in the realms divine, like thine own angels round thee shine.

5 All this for us thy love hath done; by this to thee our love is won: for this we tune our cheerful lays, and shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.**

* Benediction

* Doxology

#731 (Trinity Hymnal)

* Please stand if able ** by permission, Great Commission Publications

ANNOUNCEMENTS December 22, 2024

THIS WEEK

• **Tuesday, Dec 24th, 6:00 pm:** Christmas Eve service— Carol sing and message. Please invite friends and family. There is a fellowship time afterwards; please bring a snack or dessert to share.

UPCOMING

- All weekly Bible studies are taking a break for Christmas week.
- Jan 10th-12th, 2025, Youth Winter Weekend will take place at COPC. See the brochures in the foyer. Our church provides homes for the youth to sleep in and adult chaperoning for the activities and driving. Please be in prayer and mark your calendars for this, our 8th year of hosting.
- Sunday, Jan 26th: Annual meeting (snow date Feb 2), following Fellowship Meal.
- April 11th-12th, 2025: Presbytery Ladies' Retreat at Swanzey, NH.

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