



CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

Advent

December 24, 2023, 10:30a

The Apostle Matthew
By Guido Reni

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:
"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call
his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

Matthew 1:22-23

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Psalm 132:1-18

Leader—Remember, O Lord, in David's favor, all the hardships he endured, how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob, "I will not enter my house or get into my bed, I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, until I find a place for the Lord, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

Congregation—Behold, we heard of it in Ephrathah; we found it in the fields of Ja'ar. "Let us go to his dwelling place; let us worship at his footstool!"

Leader—Arise, O Lord, and go to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. Let your priests be clothed with righteousness, and let your saints shout for joy. For the sake of your servant David, do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

Congregation—The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them, their sons also forever shall sit on your throne."

Leader—For the Lord has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it. I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread. Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy. There I will make a horn to sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed. His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."

Opening Prayer

Song of Praise, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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!"

Chorus—

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven 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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Personal Confession of Sin (in silence)

Corporate Confession of Sin

Father in heaven, we need to be forgiven. We have tried to heal ourselves. Instead of trusting in the death of Jesus Christ, we have tried to work off our guilt. We have tried so hard to pile up good deeds that outweigh our sins. When this doesn't work, we quickly turn to denial and distraction. Instead of trusting in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have tried to change through our own efforts. We have tried to change our hearts through sheer willpower. This has left us arrogant. This has left us anxious and depressed. Forgive us for trying to heal ourselves. Forgive us for neglecting your grace. Forgive us and heal us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Assurance of the Gospel

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Song of the Gospel, O Holy Night!

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the Wise Men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,

In all our trials born to be our Friend.
He knows our need—
to our weakness is no stranger.
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King, before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

—Lighting of the Candle of Love—

Leader— We have walked in darkness. We have beheld his glorious light that has both warmed our cold hearts and enlightened our dull minds. As we light the Candle of Love, we are reminded that we are recipients of God's immeasurable love for us through the long-awaited Prince of Peace. May love be the constant mark of our fellowship—both among each other as a church and our neighbors.

International Missions Focus

Children ages 4 to 6 are dismissed to Children's Church

We love for the corporate worship gathering to be a family-friendly time, however, please feel free to either use overflow space in the office suite or check your children into the nursery/children's church if they are finding it difficult to sit through the service. Children's interactive bulletins are also available in the foyer.

Scripture Lessons

Old Testament, 2 Samuel 7:1-17

(Page 259 in the Pew Bible)

Leader—This is the word of the Lord

Congregation—Thanks be to God

Gospel, Luke 1:26-38

(Page 855 in the Pew Bible)

Leader—This is the word of the Lord

Congregation—Thanks be to God

Pastoral Prayer and 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 have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Sermon, "Preparing for Our King: Obedience"

Pastor Matt Wireman

Romans 16:25-27 (Page 951 in the Pew Bible)

Song of Response, O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful

Joyful and triumphant

O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem

Come and behold Him

Born the King of angels

Sing choirs of angels

Sing in exultation

O sing all ye bright

Hosts of heav'n above

Glory to God all

Glory in the highest

Chorus—

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

O come let us adore Him

Christ the Lord

Yea Lord we greet Thee

Born this happy morning

Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n

Word of the Father

Now in flesh appearing

The Lord's Supper

Please come forward, when you like, to share from the common bread, which signifies our oneness in Christ. It is also gluten free to enable as many to partake as feasible. Then take from the individual servings of wine or juice, which signifies our individual discipleship with Jesus. You may leave your cup at the table or take it back to your seat and drink it there.

Song of Communion, Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every 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.

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.

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.

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.

Benediction

Commissioning

Pastor— Let us go into the world as children of God and servants of Christ to love and serve others.

Congregation—Thanks be to God!

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*

Prayers

Greenville

We pray this week for **Ridgewood Church**. We ask the Lord to continue to provide for their needs and bring the lost into salvation through their ministry.

United States

We pray this week for the **City of Boston** and the work the **North American Mission Board** is doing to grow the church and advance the gospel there.

World

Lord, we lift up **Shelly and Nathan**, our friends who are serving as missionaries to the **Middle East**. Make your presence real to them, so they know that they are never alone. Give them encouragement to continue in their efforts, even when they do not see the fruit of their labor.

Announcements

English Club | Tuesday Nights, 6-8p

Lessons and Carols Service | Dec 24th, 4-5pm

Joint Worship w/Tabernacle Baptist (400 S Hudson Street) | Dec 31st; 10:30a

Women's Tea | Jan 13th, 10:30a-12p

Fourth Sunday Service & Youth Nite | Jan 28, 5-6:30p

Freedom That Lasts | Starting in February. For more info, contact Ben Marshall (bmarshall@freedomthatlasts.com)

* **30-Day Prayer Journal**: Available for \$3 upon request. See Nate Cure.

Note: *Children are a blessing from the Lord but may have trouble sitting through an entire service. Parents who would like to tend to their children may utilize the Augustine Library in the lower level.*



CHRIST *the* REDEEMER

We are united by our Core Values

Community | Discipleship | Liturgy | Mercy + Mission | Simplicity

—Church Leadership—

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