

WELCOME!
TO
HERITAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness,
and to whomsoever will —
we open wide our arms
and welcome you
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION

SCRIPTURE READING AND CANDLE LIGHTING From Isaiah 60:1–3

LEADER:

*Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

RESPONSE:

**For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;**

LEADER:

*But the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.*

RESPONSE:

**And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

WE ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S PRESENCE IN OUR MIDST

WE SING A SONG OF PRAISE

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come Thou long expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee,
Dayspring from on high appear
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of Thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing news,
Glad tidings of a birth
"Go to Him your praising bringing,
Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end,
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever,
now Thy gracious Kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

WE SING A SONG OF ASCENT

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You, op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,

Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise;

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,

Chanting bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!

Always giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,

Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,

All who live in love are Thine;

Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus, which the morning stars began;

Father love is reigning o'er us, brother love binds man to man;

Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;

Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Ludwig van Beethoven, Edward Hodges, Henry Van Dyke

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SHEPHERDING PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:4–7 & 19–22

*Lift up your eyes all around, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.*

⁵ *Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.*

⁶ *A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.*

*They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.*

⁷ *All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you;
they shall come up with acceptance on my altar,
and I will beautify my beautiful house.*

*The sun shall be no more
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
give you light;
but the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.*

²⁰ *Your sun shall no more go down,
nor your moon withdraw itself;
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.*

²¹ *Your people shall all be righteous;
they shall possess the land forever,
the branch of my planting, the work of my hands,
that I might be glorified.*

²² *The least one shall become a clan,
and the smallest one a mighty nation;
I am the LORD;
in its time I will hasten it.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND OFFERING

WE SING A SONG OF ASSURANCE

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

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.

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.

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!"

WE CONFESS OUR SIN AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Our God, we sing songs of praise to you as Creator and Lord, for we truly believe you are. Your wisdom towers above ours, your power and dominion are unrivaled in the universe, and your grace and love can only be described as infinite. You are truly God, truly good, and truly gracious.

We sing our songs of praise in faith, but you also know that in the darkness of our hearts we still love this world and crave its things. We are frustrated that other people have things that we want, and that other people enjoy blessings that we don't receive. We are angered when they don't listen to us, when they don't bow to our superiority. At times we are angry even at you, for you seem to unfairly pass over us as you lavish kindnesses upon others.

We desire and do not have, we covet and cannot obtain, we ask wrongly, out of friendship with the world and enmity with you.

We are sorry and turn from our sin in disgust and hatred of it as we see it in the plain, bright light of your Word.

(We will take a few moments for silent reflection and confession)

Father, we appeal to your grace in Christ Jesus our Savior, and we thank you that though our sin is great, your mercy is more. Forgive us, for in his powerful name we pray, amen.

WE ARE ASSURED OF OUR PARDON IN CHRIST 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17–18

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

WE SING A SONG OF ASSURANCE

See Amid the Winter's Snow

See, amid the winter's snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Chorus

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,

Christ is born in Bethlehem.
"As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels singing, 'Peace on earth,'
Told us of the Savior's birth."

Chorus

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

Chorus

Teach, O teach us, holy child,
By thy face so meek and mild,
Teach us to resemble thee,
In thy sweet humility.

Chorus

[Aaron's version, based on Erin Bode's] by Edward Caswall and John Goss

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PREACHING OF THE WORD

“Come and Worship” Matthew 2:1–12

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

SERMON NOTES

WE SING A SONG OF RESPONSE

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.

PRAYERFUL SENDING OF CORBIN LESLIE

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24–26

*The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.*

GUIDE TO FAMILY WORSHIP THIS WEEK

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1–12

Song: Joy to the World

Missions Prayer: RUF Mizzou – Dave & Emily Barnes
Columbia, MO

PRAISE & PRAYER:

- * Pray that we will daily prepare for the coming of our Lord Jesus as King!
- * Pray for those who are recuperating from surgery, from chronic ailments and for our mothers-in-waiting!
- * Pray for the Persecuted Church around the world.
- * Pray that Community Groups cultivate close relationships that will encourage our walk with Christ.
- * Pray that the Lord will continue to bring new people to our church family to join us in worshiping the Lord and learning of His love and mercy to us.
- * Pray for our Session who leads Heritage PCA in the direction that God has planned for us. Teaching Elder: Rev. Jesse York; Ruling Elders: Rich Albert, Ken Leslie, Steve McVey, Mark Saeger, Larry Valentine.
- * Pray for Rev. Jesse York as he preaches God's Word to us as our Senior Pastor and encourage our walk as the redeemed of God.

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