



Faith

Community Church

December 26, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GOD'S GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

O sing to the Lord a new song,

For he has done marvelous things.

His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

*OPENING SONGS - "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, the everlasting light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

"Once In Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed
There a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all
And His shelter was a stable and His cradle was a stall
With the poor, and meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy

And our eyes at last shall see Him through His own redeeming love
For that child, so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
We shall see him, but in heaven set at God's right hand on high;
There his children gather round, bright like stars, with glory crowned.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence— as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember our iniquity forever. Restore us, we pray, through the coming of our Lord Jesus, in whom we place our hope and trust. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Responsive)

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness.

In Christ, we are made right with God. Thanks be to God!

*DECLARATION OF FAITH- Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 52

127. Q. What does the sixth petition mean?

A. "And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one" means: By ourselves we are too weak to hold our own even for a moment. And our sworn enemies— the devil, the world, and our own flesh— never stop attacking us. And so, Lord, uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit, so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle, but may firmly resist our enemies until we finally win the complete victory.

128. Q. What does your conclusion to this prayer mean?

A. For the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours forever" means: We have made all these petitions of you because, as our all-powerful king, you are both willing and able to give us all that is good; and because your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.

129. Q. What does that little word "Amen" express?

A. "Amen" means: This shall truly and surely be! It is even more sure that God listens to my prayer than that I really desire what I pray for.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*SONG- "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

Joyful joyful we adore You God of glory Lord of light
Angels lifting praise before You Sing throughout this holy night
In a manger lies a baby Child of Mary Son of God
Voices joined in joyful chorus Praise You for Your gift of love

All Your works declare Your glory All creation joins to sing
Praise resounds as earth rejoices In the birth of Christ the King
Shepherds kneel before the Infant trumpets sound and anthems raise
As with joy our hearts are lifted Joined in wonder love and praise

SCRIPTURE- Luke 2: 15-21, Psalm 8

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." ¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. ²¹ On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

¹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. ² Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

³ When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, ⁴ what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? ⁵ You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶ You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet: ⁷ all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild, ⁸ the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas. ⁹ LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

SERMON – "Names"

*LITANY OF PRAISE (Responsive)

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come bring your purpose near to make the force of evil fade, your goodness to appear as righteousness, a rolling stream to quench a thirsty land, the waiting season spent at last:

Your kingdom close at hand!

To God we pray,

"Your kingdom come!"

Come as a marriage feast in which the first and honored guests shall be the last and least; come lift the poorest of the poor up to your finest ranks, the hungry fed, the naked clothed,

The downcast filled with thanks!

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come with your gift of growth; you scatter seed upon the ground, mix leaven in the loaf! What’s sown in secret, soon reveal to claim your harvest’s goal, till we attain your lasting aim:

The leavening of the whole!

To God we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come grant your unity. You seek and tend the wayward ones to form community, so that the lost may enter in your good and holy place, and find their joy is centered in

A heavenly embrace!

To God, we pray,

“Your kingdom come!”

Come claim creation wide; then shall the power of evil break, and sin no more divide. Your love shall launch a lasting reign as earth’s old ills are healed; by mercy, justice, peace anew,

In perfect joy revealed!

And all God’s people said:

“Amen.”

SONG OF RESPONSE- “All Hail The Power Of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the power of Jesus' name!	O seed of Israel's chosen race	Let every tongue and every tribe
Let angels prostrate fall.	Now ransomed from the fall,	Responsive to his call,
Bring forth the royal diadem,	Hail him who saves you by his grace,	To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him Lord of all.	And crown him Lord of all.	And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,	Hail him who saves you by his grace,	To him all majesty ascribe,
And crown him Lord of all!	And crown him Lord of all!	And crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with all the sacred throng
We at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown him Lord of all!

***BENEDICTION (Responsive)**

To him who loves us and has fed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve the Father—

To him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

***DOXOLOGY- “By The Sea Of Crystal”**

By the sea of crystal, saints in glory stand,
Myriads in number, drawn from every land,
Robed in white apparel, washed in Jesus’ blood,
They now reign in heaven with the Lamb of God.