worship as communal exchange. Trinity God renews us, and we respond

Theme: Christmas is good news about a God who keeps his promises

CALL TO WORSHIP

opening reading: Micah 5:2, 4-5

(leader) But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And he shall be their peace.

(song) Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song? Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing. Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, our newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo, gloria, in excelsis Deo.

prayer

(song) Come People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King, Who delight to bring Him praise; Come all and tune your hearts to sing To the Morning Star of grace. From the shifting shadows of the earth We will lift our eyes to Him, Where steady arms of mercy reach To gather children in.

CHORUS:

Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice! One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun, And those weeping through the night; Come, those who tell of battles won, And those struggling in the fight. For His perfect love will never change, And His mercies never cease, But follow us through all our days With the certain hope of peace.

CHORUS

Come, young and old from every land - Men and women of the faith;
Come, those with full or empty hands - Find the riches of His grace.
Over all the world, His people sing - Shore to shore we hear them call The Truth that cries through every age: "Our God is all in all"!

CHORUS with repeat

CONFESSING OUR SIN

second reading: Matthew 2:1-12

(leader) 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, 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." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'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."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

prayer of confession

(all) Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by your name. Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

declaration: Based on Luke 1:68-70, 74-75

(leader) Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old... that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

(song) All Creatures of Our God and King

All creatures of our God and King Lift up your voice and with us sing O praise Him! Alleluia! Thou burning sun with golden beam Thou silver moon with softer gleam O praise Him! O praise Him! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All ye who are of tender heart
Forgiving others take your part
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Ye who long pain and sorrow bear
Praise God and on Him cast your care!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless
And worship Him in humbleness
O praise Him! Alleluia!
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son
And praise the Spirit, three in one!
O praise Him! O praise Him!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

O praise Him! O praise Him!

O praise Him, our God!

O praise Him! O praise Him!

O praise Him, our God!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia, our God!

greeting, children and announcements

prayer for the congregation and the world

CONSECRATED BY THE WORD

Pastor Mark Howard

Sermon Text: Luke 1:67-80 (page: 856)

Sermon Title: Zechariah's Carol - Christmas and the Big Reminder

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(song) Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul (10000 Reasons) CHORUS:

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul Worship His holy name Sing like never before, O my soul I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

CHORUS

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger Your name is great and Your heart is kind For all Your goodness I will keep on singing Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

CHORUS

And on that day when my strength is failing The end draws near and my time has come Still my soul will sing Your praise unending Ten thousand years and then forevermore

CHORUS with repeat

(song and offering) Jesus Paid It All

I hear the Savior say thy strength indeed is small Child of weakness watch and pray find in Me thine all in all

CHORUS:

Jesus paid it all All to Him I owe Sin had left a crimson stain He washed it white as snow

Lord now indeed I find Thy power and Thine alone Can change my leper's spots and melt my heart of stone

CHORUS

And when before the throne I stand in Him complete "Jesus died my soul to save" my lips shall still repeat

CHORUS

O praise the one who paid my debt And raised this life up from the dead (sing 4 times)

CHORUS

COMPELLED TO GO OUT

benediction. Luke 2:14

(leader) Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased.