

Christ Church

*Worshipping Christ and equipping God's people
to extend His Lordship
down through our generations
and out into the world.*

The Lord's Day
Covenant Renewal Service
Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room! And heaven and nature sing.

There is no tension in the biblical framework between the life of the individual and the life of the world. They are all of a piece. The message is joy to the world, and so the Lord who is come to the world should be welcomed into every heart. The end result in both places (in the world and in each heart) is music. If the Lord comes to earth, then we, who are on earth, should join the welcoming throng. – Douglas Wilson

Prelude and Silent Prayer

God Calls Us to Worship: Amos 9:11-12 *“On that day I will raise up the tabernacle of David, which has fallen down, and repair its damages; I will raise up its ruins, and rebuild it as in the days of old; That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and all the Gentiles who are called by My name,” Says the Lord who does this thing. AMEN*

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

(Hymn 235) **All glory, laud, and honor To thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring! Thou art the King of Israel, thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's name comest, The King and blessed One! The people of the Hebrews With palms before thee went; Our praise and prayer and anthems Before thee we present: To thee before thy passion, They sang their hymns of praise; To thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. Thou didst accept their praises; Accept the prayers we bring, Who in all good delightest, Thou good and gracious King! All glory, laud, and honor to thee, Redeemer, King, To whom the lips of children Made sweet hosannas ring! AMEN**

Responsive Reading:

Luke 2:8-14

Leader: Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Congregation: And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Leader: Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Congregation: "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Leader: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

Congregation: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" AMEN

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks Hymn 223

Confession of Sin:

Hebrews 12:4-6

You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives." AMEN

Silent Confession followed by Corporate Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins to Almighty God. Congregation: Heavenly Father, eternal and merciful God, we acknowledge and confess before Your divine majesty that we are poor, miserable sinners. But we are penitent, Lord, and we grieve because of our sins whereby we provoked Your wrath. We bring accusation against ourselves and lay transgression to our own charge. Make us bold to desire that You may, in mercy, regard our miseries. Have compassion on us, most merciful God and Father,

and be pleased to forgive all our sins for the sake of the passion of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ. In His name we pray. AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Hebrews 12:7, 28 *If you endure*

chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? ...Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. AMEN

Leader: *Our sins are forgiven!*

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

What Child Is This

Hymn 213

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, And born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hades. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven And is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge The living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, The holy catholic church, The communion of saints, The forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. AMEN

Intercessory Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing, In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. AMEN

Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory Forever. AMEN

Tithes and Offerings

Doxology

God Consecrates Us with His Word

The Reading of the Scriptures:

Amos 9

Leader: *The Word of the Lord.* **Congregation:** Thanks be to God!

The Sermon:

Rebuild, Replant, Rejoice

As with Gladness Men of Old

Hymn 226

God Communes with Us

Leader: *God is good!*

Congregation: All the time!

Leader: *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Let us pray.*

Corporate Prayer of Thanksgiving

Congregation: Merciful Father, we lift our eyes from the visible elements even as we lift up our hearts to heaven itself, where Jesus Christ is, seated on the right hand of the Father, from where He shall come again to complete our redemption, in whom all the promises of God are fulfilled, and all spiritual blessings are to be found. In joy of heart, in brotherly union, in Christian love we come to partake of Your table, giving thanks for the great love which You have shown to us through Christ our Lord. AMEN

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Of the Fathers' Love Begotten

Hymn 162

God Commissions Us

Acts 20:32

*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. **AMEN***

Benediction

Gloria Patri

Hymn 735