

Christ Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

Opening Song

Across the Lands

You're the Word of God the Father, from before the world began;
ev'ry star and every planet has been fashioned by your hand.

All creation holds together by the power of your voice:
let the skies declare your glory, let the land and seas rejoice!

Refrain:

*You're the Author of creation, you're the Lord of every man;
and your cry of love rings out across the lands.*

Yet you left the gaze of angels, came to seek and save the lost,
and exchanged the joy of heaven for the anguish of a cross.
With a prayer you fed the hungry, with a word you calmed the sea.
yet how silently you suffered that the guilty may go free. (Refrain)

With a shout you rose victorious, wresting victory from the grave,
and ascended into heaven leading captives in your wake.
Now you stand before the Father interceding for your own.
From each tribe and tongue and nation you are leading sinners home. (Refrain)

*Prayer of Confession (unison)

Eternal God, the wells of your compassion never run dry, and your mercies are new every morning. We look back, Lord, on a year now ended. We remember our high hopes and resolve when it began; and we confess that our selfishness, pride, and deceit soon made a mess of it. Father, forgive the sins we knew as we committed them, and forgive the sins we did not know, which still did harm. Make us new, Lord. By your grace, empower us to serve your Kingdom in the time we are given. And so crown this new year with your goodness that, when it ends, we will know it to have been a year of grace, a year of our Lord, Jesus Christ. (silent prayer)

*Words of Assurance

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

(Verses one and two)

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King;
he the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity.

In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come;
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: he the perfect Son of Man;
in his living, in his suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man;
Christ the great and sure fulfillment of the law, in him we stand.

Pastoral Prayer

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 forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.
Amen.*

Old Testament Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Meekness and Majesty

Meekness and majesty, manhood and deity
in perfect harmony, the Man who is God;
Lord of eternity dwells in humanity,
kneels in humility and washes our feet.

Refrain:

*O what a mystery - meekness and majesty
Bow down and worship for this is your God.*

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross;
Suffering to give us life, conquering through sacrifice,
And as they crucify prays, "Father, forgive." (Refrain)

3. Wisdom unsearchable, God the invisible,
Love indestructible in frailty appears;
Lord of infinity stooping so tenderly
Lifts our humanity to the heights of his throne. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading

John 1:1-18

Sermon

"The Word Became Flesh"

Affirmation of Faith

Heidelberg Catechism – Question One

What is your only comfort in life and in death?

*That I belong – body and soul, in life and in death –
not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ,
who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me
from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father
in heaven not a hair can fall from my head;
indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he
also assures me of eternal life, and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready
from now on to live for him.*

Invitation to the Table

Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery

(Verses three and four)

Come behold the wondrous mystery: Christ the Lord upon the tree;
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold,
bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold.

Come behold the wondrous mystery: slain by death the God of life;
but no grave could e'er restrain him – praise the Lord, He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope!
Christ in power resurrected, as will we be when he comes.

The Lord's Supper

Closing Song

New Year Prayer

We bless you, Lord, when by your grace
we prosper in the land;
and when we cannot see your face,
we trust your guiding hand.

Refrain:

*O God of all our passing days, and all the days to be,
your faithful love deserves our praise now and eternally.*

What lies behind has shown your pow'r,
your sov'reign rule and reign,
and so we trust what lies ahead
will be as you ordain. (Refrain)

Though we may know abundant joy or cry a bitter tear,
we pray your loving hand, O Lord,
will bless this dawning year. (Refrain)