

MAPLEWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 27, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

All God's people—
boys and girls, women, men:
Come and worship!
Shepherds, Magi, saints, and angels:
Come and worship! Come and worship!
All who need the Savior, all who long for comfort:
Come and worship, come and worship Christ,
the newborn King!

CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th'incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. **[Refrain]**

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. **[Refrain]**

CHRISTMAS PRAYER OF PRAISE

O Emmanuel,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Lord of might,
O Branch of Jesse's stem,
O Key of David,
O Bright and Morning Star,
O King of nations,
We rejoice and are glad
on this bright Christmas morning,
for truly you have come,
full of grace and truth.
Even now, come into our hearts again.
Show us the path of knowledge.
Comfort us in our mourning.
Save us from our sin.
Open wide our way to heaven.
Turn our darkness into light.
End our sad divisions
and be our King of peace,
so that every creature in heaven and on earth
will join in a chorus of praise,
and shout with joy to you, our Lord. Amen.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)



PRAYERS OF PEACE

Pray the peace of Christ for family and loved ones,
neighbors and acquaintances,
friends and enemies,
people and places around the world.

RESPONSE *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains,
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 90

MESSAGE *Opening the Gift of Time*



HYMN *God of Our Life*

God of our life, through all the circling years,
we trust in you;
in all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
your hand we view.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
we own your mercies, Lord, which never fail.

God of the past, our times are in your hand;
with us abide.

Lead us by faith, to hope's true Promised Land;
be now our guide.

With you to bless, the darkness shines as light,
and faith's fair vision changes into sight.

God of the coming years, through paths unknown
we follow you;

when we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
our strength renew.

Be now for us in life our daily bread,
our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

**PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE
AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray for all in need this day, and for our world,
especially at this time of coronavirus pandemic...



OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts,
signs of your goodness and mercy.
Receive them with our gratitude,
that through us all may know
the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh,
our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

CAROL *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. **[Refrain]**

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. **[Refrain]**

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. **[Refrain]**

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21

