

Welcome & Call to Worship

Hymn - MP 116 - Down from His Glory

1. Down from His glory, ever-living story,
my God and Saviour came, and Jesus was His name;
born in a manger to His own a stranger,
a man of sorrows, tears and agony!
*O how I love Him! how I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all-in-all!
The great Creator became my Saviour,
and all God's fulness dwelleth in Him!*
2. What condescension, bringing us redemption,
that in the dead of night, not one faint hope in sight;
God, gracious, tender, laid aside His splendour,
stooping to woo, to win, to save my soul.
*O how I love Him! how I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all-in-all!
The great Creator became my Saviour,
and all God's fulness dwelleth in Him!*
3. Without reluctance, flesh and blood, His substance,
He took the form of man, revealed the hidden plan;
O glorious mystery, sacrifice of Calvary!
And now I know He is the great 'I AM'!
*O how I love Him! how I adore Him!
My breath, my sunshine, my all-in-all!
The great Creator became my Saviour,
and all God's fulness dwelleth in Him!*

Prayer

Hymn – MP 588 - See, amid the winters snow

1. See, amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years.
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*
2. Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies,
He who, throned in height sublime,
sits amid the cherubim.
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say,
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

4. As we watched at dead of night,
Lo, we saw a wondrous light:
angels singing, "Peace on earth!"
told us of the Saviour's birth.
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

5. Sacred infant, all divine,
what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

6. Teach, O teach us, holy child,
by Thy face so meek and mild,
teach us to resemble Thee
in Thy sweet humility.
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Reading: Psalm 80:1-7 - ¹Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth ² before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us. ³ Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. ⁴ How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smoulder against the prayers of your people? ⁵ You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. ⁶ You have made us an object of derision to our neighbours, and our enemies mock us. ⁷ Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Reading: Luke 1:46-55 - ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. ⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. ⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful ⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Hymn – MP 644 - The first Nowell

1. The first Nowell, the angel did say
was to Bethlehem's shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel!*

(Continued overleaf)

2. Then wise men came from country far;
looked up and saw a guiding star;
they travelled on by night and day
to reach the place where Jesus lay;
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel!

3. At Bethlehem they entered in,
on bended knee they worshipped Him;
they offered there in His presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel!

4. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord
for Christ has our salvation wrought
and with his blood mankind has bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell
Born is the King of Israel!

Sermon

Prayer

Hymn - MP 589 - See Him lying on a bed of straw

1. See Him lying on a bed of straw;
a draughty stable with an open door;
Mary cradling the babe she bore –
The Prince of glory is His name.
O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men –
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.
2. Star of silver, sweep across the skies,
Show where Jesus in the manger lies;
Shepherds, swiftly from your stupor rise,
to see the Saviour of the world!
O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men –
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.
3. Angels, sing the song that you began,
bring God's glory to the heart of man;
sing that Bethl'em's little baby can
be salvation to the soul.
O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men –
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.
4. Mine are riches, from Your poverty,
from Your innocence, eternity;
mine forgiveness by Your death for me,
child of sorrow for my joy.
O now carry me to Bethlehem
to see the Lord appear to men –
just as poor as was the stable then,
the Prince of glory when He came.

Dedication of Offering

Hymn - MP 749 - What child is this

1. What child is this, who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring Him praise,
the babe, the Son of Mary.
2. Why lies He such in mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring Him praise,
the babe, the Son of Mary.
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, King, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
haste, haste to bring Him praise,
the babe, the Son of Mary.

Benediction

Hymn - MP 460 – May God's blessing

May God's blessing surround you each day,
as you trust Him and walk in His way.
May His presence within guard and keep you from sin,
go in peace, go in joy, go in love.