

# The Lord's Service

December 23, 2018

*\*Standing together is our ordinary practice,  
but you are welcome to remain seated.*

## Prelude

### \*Song of Praise with Greeting *Before the Throne of God Above*

Before the throne of God above, I have a strong, a perfect plea,  
A great High Priest whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands, my name is written on His heart.  
I know that while in heaven He stands,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart,  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair, and tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look and see Him there, Who made an end of all my sin.  
Because the sinless Savior died, my sinful soul is counted free.  
For God the Just is satisfied to look on Him and pardon me,  
To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the Risen Lamb, my perfect spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I Am, the King of glory and of grace,  
One with Himself I cannot die. My soul is purchased by His blood,  
My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

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My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my Savior and my God,  
With Christ my Savior and my God.

(1997 Vikki Cook and Charitie L. Bancroft Worship )

## Welcome and Announcements

# God Calls Us

*In silent meditation, let us prepare to meet the sovereign God in worship.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle      The Jason Middleton Family

\*Call to Worship      Psalm 149.1-4

LEADER: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song, His  
praise in the assembly of the godly!

PEOPLE: **Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the  
children of Zion rejoice in their King!**

LEADER: Let them praise His name with dancing, making  
melody to Him with tambourine and lyre!

PEOPLE: **For the Lord takes pleasure in His people;  
He adorns the humble with salvation.**

\*Hymn      No. 208

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

\*Invocation      Elder Tony DeMarco

# God Cleanses Us

Reading of the Law of God

Deuteronomy 5.6-15, 6

**LEADER:** I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

**PEOPLE:** **You shall have no other gods before Me.**

**LEADER:** You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love Me and keep My commandments.

**PEOPLE:** **You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.**

**LEADER:** Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy, as the Lord your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant, or your ox or your donkey or any of your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates, that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God commanded you to keep the Sabbath day.

**PEOPLE: I am the Lord your God, Who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.**

*Whether seated or kneeling,  
let us approach the Lord together with a posture of reverence.*

**Corporate Confession of Sin (in unison)**

**Merciful God,  
we humble ourselves in Your presence,  
confessing our sinfulness in Your sight.  
We have broken Your holy law.  
We have not sought first Your kingdom and  
righteousness.  
We have been anxious and troubled  
about many things and have neglected  
the things that belong to our peace.  
We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves  
or done to others as we would have them do unto us.**

**Gracious God, our heavenly Father,  
Who has given us Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
to save Your people from their sins;  
forgive us, we pray,  
cleanse us from all unrighteousness  
and renew a right spirit within us;  
through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ,  
our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**2 Corinthians 5.17, 21**

**LEADER: Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:  
“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new  
creation...For our sake He made Him to be sin  
Who knew no sin, so that in Him we might be-  
come the righteousness of God.”**

**The peace of the Lord be with you!**

**PEOPLE: And also with you!**

## God Consecrates Us

New Testament Reading

Elder Mark Lander

Matthew 2.1-12 (p. 807)

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Anthem

Choir

*Sure On This Shining Night*

Sure on this shining night, with angels gathered round,  
The Light of light reveals Himself within the sound,  
On this shining night.

Emmanuel is come to earth, all is healed, all is well.  
Creation is redeemed through the Son.

Sure on this shining night I weep in wonder,  
Seeing from the stars Redemption come to earth.

Sure on this shining night, with angels gathered round,  
The Light of light reveals Himself within the sound,  
On this shining night.

(Lauridsen; words by Gaines, 2005 Songs of Peer)

\*Doxology

No. 218

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:  
One in might and One in glory  
While unending ages run!

\*Prayer of the Church

Pastor Jones

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Scripture Lesson

Micah 5.1-6 (p. 778)

Sermon

Pastor Bennett

THE CHRIST OF PEACE

\*Hymn

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother- all who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us, Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us Sunward in the triumph song of life.

\*Confession of Faith (in unison)      Belgic Confession, 24

We believe that this true faith  
being wrought in man  
by the hearing of the Word of God  
and the operation of the Holy Spirit  
does regenerate and make him a new man,  
causing him to live a new life  
and freeing him from the bondage of sin.  
... It is impossible that this holy faith  
can be unfruitful in man  
for we do not speak of a vain faith,  
but of such a faith that is called in Scripture  
a faith that works by love,  
which excites man to the practice of those works  
which God has commended in His Word.

\*Gloria Patri      No. 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.

## God Commissions Us

\*Benediction

Postlude