

New Covenant Presbyterian Church - PCA

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December 14, 2014

Prelude

Greetings and Announcements

Choral Introit

The Call to Worship

Luke 2:8-14

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”

*Hymn No. 133 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born 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!”
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings,

Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

*Invocation

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Sermon

Dr. Paul A. Brown

THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

“Behold, I bring you tidings of great joy to all people.”

Morning Prayer

*Hymn No. 124 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us: Let us find our rest in Thee;
Israel’s Strength and Consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of ev’ry nation, joy of ev’ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King;
born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

The Offering of Thanks and Praise

Offertory

Christmas Cantata

Sing Noel

By Jeanne E. Shaffer

Choir Director: Mr. Devon Hamilton

Organist: Mr. Don Reasons

I. "Behold..."

As Joseph Was a-Walking (Chorus)

As Joseph was a-walking, He heard an angel sing:
"This night shall be the birth-night Of Christ, our heav'nly King."
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

His birth-bed shall be neither In housen nor in hall,
Nor in the place of Paradise, But in an oxen's stall.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels We Have Heard on High (Alto, Soprano, and Chorus)

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains:
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Glory to God in the Highest (Soprano Solo and Chorus)

Oh, glory! Glory! Glory to God in the highest,
Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.

II. "... I Bring You Tidings"

Shepherds, Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep (Chorus)

Shepherds, shake off your drowsy sleep!
Rise and leave your silly sheep!
Angels from heav'n around are singing,
Tidings of great joy are bringing.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell!
Sing noel, O sing noel!

Hark, even now the bells ring round;
Listen to their merry sound;
Hark, how the birds new songs are making,
As if winter's chains were breaking.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell!
Sing noel, O sing noel!

Shepherds, then up and quick away;
Seek the Babe ere break of day;
He is the hope of ev'ry nation,
All in Him shall find salvation.
Shepherds, the chorus come and swell!
Sing noel, O sing noel!

The Christ Child Is Born (Tenor Solo, Soprano-Alto Duet)

The Christ child is born, oh, hallelujah!
Rejoice from the heart and be glad.
He comes bringing peace to earth, hallelujah!
Rejoice from the heart and be glad.
Rejoice, all ye people, both great and small,
And come to the dear Babe lying here in the stall.

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (Baritone, Soprano, and Chorus)

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
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.

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed the Saviour's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

Good Christian Men, Rejoice (Tenor Solo and Chorus)

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.
Man and beast before Him bow, And He is in the manger now:
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice With heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this.
He hath opened heaven's door. And man is blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Solo Quartet and Chorus)

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem! Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today!
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

Then be ye glad, good people. At this time of the year,
And light ye up your candles, For His star shineth clear.

III. "...Of Great Joy"

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (Chorus)

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay:
Remember Christ our Saviour Was born on Christmas Day;
To save us all from Satan's pow'r When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

In Bethlehem, in Jewry, This blessed Babe was born,
And laid within a manger Upon this blessed morn;
The which His mother, Mary, Did nothing take in scorn,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heav'nly Father A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born The Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy!

Christmas Now Is Here (Chorus)

Christmas now is here, See the moon's wakening,
Christmas now is here, Clear and cold the night;
Trudging thru the snow Go the quiet people;
Christmas now is here, Clear and cold the night.

Away in a Manger (Soprano Solo and Chorus)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray:
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

Christmas now is here, Time of joy and gladness,
Bringing peace on earth, And good will to men.

An Ox's Stall (Chorus)

An ox's stall, no cot or bed In which the new-born Child was laid;
A straw-filled manger used instead,
And humble Wise Men knelt and prayed.

No better place was found that night
For God's dear Son, the Prince of light;
But Mary knew that midnight late
Her Child was born to high estate.

The, babel sounds drowned out the song
The angel sang; the crowds passed on,
All unaware God's Son was born
In Bethlehem that lustrous morn.

But angels knew, and worshipped Him,
While cherubim and seraphim
Around His Father's throne above
Praised Him who sent His Son in love
To earth, to seek and save the lost,
And with His life to pay the cost.

IV. ... **To All People**

Let Our Gladness Know No End
(Tenor Solo, Tenor-Baritone Duet, and Chorus)

See the loveliest blooming rose; Alleluia!
From the branch of Jesse grows; Alleluia!

On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us,
Christ, His Son, His Son to save us!

Let our gladness know no end, Alleluia!
Unto earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us,
Christ, His Son, His Son to save us!

Let our gladness know no end, Alleluia!
Unto earth did Christ descend, Alleluia!

Sing Noel (Chorus)

Sing noel, sing noel! O sing! Glory! Glory!
Glory to God in the highest! Glory to God!

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction No. 136 *The First Noel* *Refrain*
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel

*Postlude