

FROM HEAVEN ABOVE: A SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS
December 27, 2021

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Pastor Pam Challis

GATHERING CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#288

**Good Christian friends, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our king!
To all the world glad news we bring: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's mighty stone is rolled away;
let all the earth rejoice and say: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise we in songs of victory that love, that life, which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord, and sing today with one accord,
the life laid down, the life restored: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Who are these angels who come to earth, bearing the news of the Christ child's birth?

Who are these shepherds who run to see, and worship the babe on bended knee?

Who is this child, so small, so slight, of whom the angels sang that night?

Who is this king, a manger his throne, who humbles himself to make us his own?

Who is this God who sends a Son into our midst, the promised one?

GREETING AND PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God sent from heaven above, be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray. **Shepherding God, the gift of your son is an interruption of the world's business as usual.
Strike wonder in us once again as we behold your glory in the form of a newborn who gives us life, and
in whose name we pray, Amen.**

Who Are These Angels Who Come to Earth?

FIRST READING

Luke 2:8-14

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

#289

**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.**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
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.**

Who Are These Shepherds Who Run to See?

SECOND READING:

Luke 2:15-20

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

CAROL:

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#275

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.

Who Is This Child, So Small, So Slight?

THIRD READING:

Hebrews 1:1-4

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

CAROL:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

#276

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Who Is This King, a Manger His Throne?

FOURTH READING:

Isaiah 9:2-7

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

CAROL:

All My Heart Again Rejoices

#273

All my heart again rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born,"
their choirs are singing, till the air ev'rywhere now with joy is ringing.

Jesus' voice from lowly manger softly thus calls to us: "You are safe from danger; come and see;
from all that grieves you you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;
love him who with love is yearning; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish; though my breath fail in death, I will never perish:
by your side in light eternal I shall be endlessly filled with joy supernal.

Who Is This God, Who Sends a Son?

FIFTH LESSON:

John 1:1-14

Glory to God in highest heaven, **who unto us the Son has given.**

CAROL:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

#272

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah had foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.**

**This flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fill the air, dispels with glorious splendor the
darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens ev'ry load.**

**O Savior, child of Mary, who felt our human woe; O Savior, king of glory, who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of heaven and into endless day.**

MEDITATION

Pastor Pam Challis

HYMN OF THE DAY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

#295

**Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.**

**Oh, that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the
Savior of our race, and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.**

**This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word;
now he shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, ev'ry voice in concert ring evermore and evermore.**

**Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving
and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal victory
evermore and evermore! Amen!**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Gracious God, you come from heaven above into the midst of our world.
Fill our hearts with the joy of the angels at your birth.

You come from heaven above to the lowliest of human conditions.
Watch over those in need, the sick, the hungry, the grieving.

You come from heaven above to walk the way of the cross.
Guide us to follow your path of forgiveness, mercy, and peace.

You come from heaven above to become flesh and live among us.
May we see your glory, full of grace and truth. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Love Has Come

#292

Love has come—a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.

Love is God now asleep in the hay.

See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?

Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free. Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

BENEDICTION

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh, Jesus, the baby in the manger.

Amen.

SENDING CAROL

Go Tell It On The Mountain

#290

REFRAIN: 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. **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 lonely manger the humble Christ was born;
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. **REFRAIN**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Stay safe and be safe. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE