

# December 26, 2021

## Order of Worship

(\*Please rise in body and/or spirit )

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                      Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas

Martin/Blane/Stolz

Candle Lighting

Call to Worship

Leader:    Here on the heels of Christmas

**People:    We speak of love.**

Leader:    We speak of joy.

**People:    We speak of candlelight and fireside.**

Leader:    We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

**People:    We speak of “glories” and angel choruses.**

Leader:    We speak the words, “Do not be afraid”.

**People:    Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak, for the world needs a light.**

Leader:    A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

\*Hymn #119

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 the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
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, off-spring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel  
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn king!"

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 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 newborn king!"

## Call to Confession

Leader: People of God, the world is different now. We live under the care of a Savior. We live in the era of God's grace delivered. Let us pray that we may transition into the time of Christ.

## Prayer of Confession (**unison**)

**We leave in your hands, dear Lord, all of the shortcomings of the last year: personal and public. Let us not hold onto past sins – as much as we have asked forgiveness sincerely, you have forgiven us. As we evaluate the year past, may we not fail to include your grace in our assessment. You renewed your mercy every morning, just as promised. If we have any fear that the sins of last year will define next year, we confess it. We pray that having received the gift of your holy Son, that we be strengthened to live in the fullness of salvation that he brings. Amen.**

## Moment of Silent Reflection

### Assurance of Pardon

Leader: “For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.”

Hear the good news: there has been a changing of the guard. We live now under Christ's benevolent authority, and within the auspices of his grace. At Christmas as we celebrate this new era for us and for the world. Let us rejoice in this news!

## Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson                      Isaiah 61:10-62:3

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

## \*Passing of the Peace

Second Scripture Lesson                      Luke 2:22-40

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God!**

## Sermon

“Dreams Realized”

Offering

Offertory

What Child Is This

Traditional English Melody arr. Gary Lanier

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication (**unison**)

**Bless you O Lord, for you have greatly enriched our lives. We seek to be as thoughtful with our gifts, and so we pray that our time, talent, and treasure may enrich our community and our neighbors with your love and grace. We pray, with recognition that many are called to minister to the physical needs of your people, but the church has a special calling to minister also to the spiritual needs. This is holy work, and we are grateful that you welcome us into it. Amen.**

\*Hymn # 136

Go Tell it on the Mountain

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 ov'r silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
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 our Savior's birth.

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

Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

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

\*Benediction

Postlude

Christmas Joy

Arr. M. Helman Jubilee Bells\*

## Worship Leaders:

Liturgist:	Elder Libby Andia
Ushers:	Team B
Zoom Host:	Jim Wright
Hymn Leadership:	Bing and Barbara Prestridge
Jubilee Bells:	Katja Gruening, George Kustka, Allison Upton, Kim Davies, Sue Martin, Rich & Nancy Vodhanel, Sam Schoelkopf, Heather Palframan, Sue Starke, Kathleen Healy-Wedsworth and Barbara Prestridge
Saxophone:	Rich Vodhanel
Piano and Organ:	Marcello Velame
Video Editing:	Rich Vodhanel
Pastor:	Rev. Katja Gruening

### *“Reflections On What We Believe”*

“We believe in passing the mic—so that we are not the only ones speaking, so that we can lift up the voices of those around us, so that we too might listen and learn.”

Rev. Sarah Are, *Founding Creative Partner of A Sanctified Art and Assoc. Pastor at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas*