

**The FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLMAR, MN
December 26, 2021**



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*Please rise as you are able
Please join in speaking/singing **bolded** text

PRELUDE

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

GOD GATHER US TO WORSHIP

***Opening Words**

Christmas is here!

We come to the stable with hope; we bring to the stable our dreams.

And as we light the Christ candle we pray

That we may live in peace and worship the Christ child together.

Opening Prayer

Hymn #132 (GG)

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.

German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953

Music harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

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Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;

Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
How ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice.
Now ye need not fear grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD OF GRACE

**Prayer of Adoration and Confession
The Gift of Forgiveness**

Hymn #121 (GG)

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Philips Brooks, 1868

Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

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

**For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts and blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**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 Emmanuel!**

Christmas Blessing

CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The gift of God's word (Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-11)

The gift of singing

The gift of giving

The gift of prayer

THE GREATEST GIFT

Closing Hymn #119 (GG)
“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1855

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**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God of sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

**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 in flesh with us dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and fire to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.**

GOD SENDS US TO SERVE

We bring good news of great joy!

Christ is born, the world rejoices!

We take that joy into the world in the name of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Response #113 (GG)

“Angles We Have Heard on High”

Music by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937 and Text by James Chadwick, 1860m alt.

Music © 1937,ren. 1965 H Augustine Smith Jr.

(Chorus only)

Glor—ia in excelsis Deo;

Glor—ria in excelsis Deo.

POSTLUDE