

Advent Candle Lighting

Leader

Call to Worship

From James 5

Minister: Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait for the Lord's return. Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains in the fall and in the spring. They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen. You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near.

Invocation

Minister

✠Hymn of Worship

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

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 power / When we were gone astray:

O tidings of comfort and joy, / Comfort and joy; / O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly 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:

Fear not then, said the Angel, / Let nothing you affright; / This day is born a Saviour / Of a pure Virgin bright, / To free all those who trust in Him / From Satan's power and might:

The shepherds at those tidings / Rejoiced much in mind, / And left their flocks afeeding, / In tempest, storm, and wind; / And went to Bethlehem straightway / The Son of God to find:

✠Prayer of Promise

The Book of Prayer, Matthew Henry

O Lord, all Your ways are truth and honor. You are a God of integrity. The perfection of Your righteousness may be compared to the highest heights, Your justice to the deepest depths. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne. (Deut. 32:4, Ps. 36:6, 97:2)

Leader: *All glory be to God for His grace and mercy.*

People: Amen.

Hymn of Praise

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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.

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 thy holy birth; / And praises sing to God the King, / And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, / The wondrous gift is giv'n! / So God imparts to

✠Those who are able, please stand.

human hearts / The blessings of His heav'n. / 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!

Confession of Faith

Q.121 The Geneva Catechism, John Calvin

Leader: *When God has once embraced us, aren't the works we do under the influence of the Holy Spirit acceptable to Him?*

People: They please Him to the extent that He freely makes them worthy by His own grace, but not because of any inherent merit in the works themselves.

Pastoral Prayer

Minister

✠Hymn of Preparation

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are: / Bearing gifts we traverse afar, / Field and fountain, moor and mountain, / Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light, / Star with royal beauty bright, / Westward leading, still proceeding, / Guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain: / Gold I bring to crown Him again, / King forever, ceasing never / Over us all to reign.

Frankincense to offer have I: / Incense owns a Deity nigh; / Prayer and praising, voices raising, / Worshiping God on high.

Myrrh is mine: its bitter perfume / Breathes a life of gathering gloom; / Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, / Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Glorious now behold Him arise: / King and God and Sacrifice; / Alleluia, Alleluia! / Sounds through the earth and skies.

✠Sermon Scripture Reading

Minister

Minister: *This is the Word of the Lord.*

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sermon

Dr. Renton Rathbun

Putting Away Childish Things

Ephesians 4:14

✠Hymn of Response

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; / Praise Him, all creatures here below; / Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: / Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. / Amen.

✠Hymn of Benediction

Once a Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city / Stood a lowly cattle shed, / Where a mother laid her baby / In a manger for His bed: / Mary was that mother mild, / Jesus

Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven / Who is God and Lord of all, / And His shelter was a stable, / And His cradle was a stall: / With the poor, and mean, and lowly, / Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And thro' all His wondrous childhood / He would honor and obey, / Love and watch the lowly maiden / In whose gentle arms He lay: / Christian children all must be / Mild, obedient, good as He.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, / Thro' His own redeeming love; / For that child so dear and gentle / Is our Lord in heav'n above: / And He leads His children on / To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, / With the oxen standing by, / We shall see Him, but in heaven, / Set at God's right hand on high; / When like stars His children crowned / All in white shall wait around.

✠**Benediction**



Advent

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers
and want fellowship;
to all who hunger
and thirst after righteousness;
and to all who will come,
this church opens wide her doors
and offers welcome in the name of the
Lord Jesus Christ.*

2094 Hwy 101 North, Greer, SC 29651
Mail: PO Box 893, Greer, SC 29652
www.blueridgepres.com



Online Giving

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