

Presbytery of West Virginia Staff-Led Worship Service for December 27, 2020

Call to Worship:

Maureen Wright and Mark Miller

One: There is good news of great joy for all!

Many: Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

One: Now we have seen the saving love of the Lord,

Many: the glory of God's people and a light to all.

One: Let us worship God.

Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

Mark Miller

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

2 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!

3 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!

4 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!

Call to Confession

Rocky Poole

Prayer of Confession

Sarah Specht

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh, God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon**Rocky Poole**

Hear the promise of the Lord: See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God, sought out, not forsaken.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.**Prayer for Illumination****Nellie Howard**

Speak to us, living God, as you have spoken to our ancestors: through the voices of your prophets, the breath of your Spirit, and the life of your Son, so that we may live according to your word; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Scripture**Luke 2:22-40****Barbara Chalfant****Children's Sermon****Susan Sharp Campbell****Sermon****Barbara Chalfant****Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"****Ed Thompson**

1 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 host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the 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!"

3 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 we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”

Prayers of the People

Maureen Wright

Offering

Offertory

Amy Robinson

Special Music

Mark Miller

Prayer of Dedication

Amy Robinson

Hymn

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Ed Thompson

Refrain:

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

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o’er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior’s birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Charge and Benediction

Worship Notes (and resources)

- The Call to Worship is from *Call to Worship, volume 51*.
- The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and The Invitation to the Offering are from *Call to Worship, volume 54*.
- The Prayer for Illumination and the Prayer of Dedication are from *Call to Worship, volume 48*.
- The “Prayers of the People” are adapted from a prayer by the Reverend Roddy Hamilton at www.churchofscotland.org.uk