

MORNING WORSHIP

December 27, 2020

Half past Ten O'Clock

First Sunday of Christmas GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

WELCOME AND NOTICES

INTROIT

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"
Ivey Cherry, baritone

HUMILITY

*CALL TO WORSHIP

adapted from Psalm 148

Leader: Praise God from the heavens!

People: Praise Him from the skies above!

Leader: Praise God, angels and all the hosts of heaven!

People: Praise Him, sun and moon, and shining stars!

Leader: Praise God, kings of the earth and people everywhere,

People: Praise Him, men and women, young and old!

Leader: Let all the earth bring praise to the Lord,
at whose word creation came into being.

People: We gather to praise and worship our God!

+*HYMN

"Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow"

African-American Spiritual

**There's a star in the East on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

Refrain

**Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the Star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

**If you take good heed to the angel's words, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
You'll forget your flocks, you'll forget your herds, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.**

Refrain

CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Rev. Beth Merrill Neel

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Giver of Life:

There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us

From one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow,

For fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out.

You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You.

**Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations. Through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we
pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1 Thessalonians 5:9-10

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 63:7-9

SERMON

"What do you remember?"

Margo Richardson

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

CRANHAM

**In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.**

**Angels and archangels May have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air;
But His mother only, In her maiden bliss, Worshiped the beloved With a kiss.**

**What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him; Give my heart.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

Text to Give

704-734-9818

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"The people who walked in darkness" from *Messiah*
Ivey Cherry, baritone

G. F. Handel

*DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

**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.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Rev. Christine Longhurst, inspired by Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Generous God, through Your Son, Jesus Christ,
You have shown us what it means to love. And You call us to follow Your example
to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Continue to write Your law of love on our hearts.
Give us an unwavering passion for justice, and a tenacious faith that will not rest
until the hungry are fed, the oppressed find relief, and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen.**

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN

"On This Day Earth Shall Ring"

PERSONENT HODIE

**On this day earth shall ring With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to save us; Him the Father gave us.**

Refrain

Ideooo, Ideooo, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!

**God's bright star, o'er His head, Wise men three to Him led,
Kneeling low by His bed, Lay their gifts before Him, Praise Him and adore Him.**

Refrain

**On this day angels sing; With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven's King, Born on earth to save us; Peace and love He gave us.**

Refrain

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

For those worshipping in the Sanctuary, please be seated after the Benediction until after the Postlude ends. Then, take caution to maintain social distance as you exit the Narthex.

*Those who are able please stand.