



# GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GRACE COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Service of Worship December 27, 2020 10:00am  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

## Gathering

PRELUDE

Linda Dover, organist

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

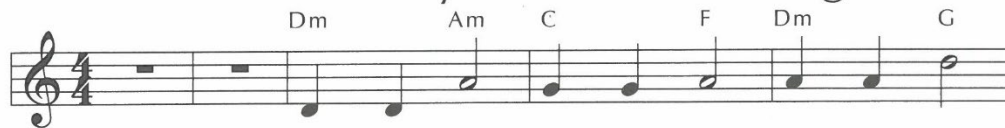
HYMN 141

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”  
(v. 1 Ensemble, v. 2-4 All)

PERSONENT HODIE

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

## 141 On This Day Earth Shall Ring



1 On this day earth shall ring with the song  
2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came  
3 God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three  
4 On this day an - gels sing; with their song



chil - dren sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to  
down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth; ox and ass be -  
to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be -  
earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, born on earth to



save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.  
side him from the cold would hide him. \*Id - e - o - o - o - o,  
fore him, praise him and a - dore him.  
save us; peace and love he gave us.



id - e - o - o - o - o, id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

\*Therefore, glory to God in the highest.

## CALL TO WORSHIP

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
Those who lived in a land of deep darkness –  
on them light has shined.  
We long for a light to guide us.

For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
We long to be relieved of all that we carry.

You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy.  
We long for God's joy in our lives.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

He is named Emmanuel:  
God with us.  
In this tiny baby, this vulnerable child,  
we find our light, our joy, our comfort.  
Joy to the World! The Lord is come!

# 134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

A TIME WITH STEWART

CHRISTMAS PRAYER (video)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE & SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Hear the good news of Christmas. In a humble stable, God has revealed to us the wonders of divine love. A child, who is the Christ, has been born for us bringing forgiveness and love. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you and all others!**

HYMN 123

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"  
(Verses 1, 3, 4 & 5)

CAROL

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

123 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un - furled,  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf-fered long;  
4 And you, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
5 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world:  
be - neath the heaven-ly hymn have rolled two thou-sand years of wrong;  
who toil a - long the climb-ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told,



“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,  
 and we at war on earth hear not the tid - ings that they bring;  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen-dors fling,

the world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o’er its Ba - bel sounds the bless-ed an - gels sing.  
 O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the an - gels sing!  
 O, rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing.  
 and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## Equipping

### GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:8—20

(Common English Bible)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

One: Holy wisdom, holy word.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

“Of The Father’s Love Begotten”  
The Trigger Family

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

SERMON

“The Night of His Birth”

Rev. Sue Trigger

## Sending

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

JESUS CHRIST: BIRTH

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin’s womb.  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Linda Dover, organist

*God's Peace to You!*

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