

# CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 25, 2020

Welcome/Announcements

Joyce

## Swagatam, Tansi, Welcome

As we join together in worship we acknowledge that we live on Turtle Island, land that creator brought out of the waters so all could have life. Turtle Island is the traditional territory of Anishinabek, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples, and the home of the Metis Nation.

## Call to Worship (responsive)

Joyce

Let us herald the Good News that Christ is with us.  
May the wonder and joy of this blessed season sustain us  
**The miracle of Christmas gives us a vision of God's Shalom.**  
Come, let us worship!

## Hymn:

*O Come All Ye faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesu, to Thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*Refrain*

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.*

## Opening Litany

Damber and Joyce

Joyce           Nineteen hours ago the sun rose over the sheep-grazed slopes of New Zealand. Along with Christians on other islands in the Western Pacific, from north to south, New Zealanders were the first to greet this wondrous Christmas morning. While we were still living our yesterday, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

DamberAn hour later, Eastern Australians greeted the day with song, as the rising sun sparkled on white sand beaches. While we were still living our yesterday, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce           As Glorias echoed over the giant red rocks of Central Australia, they were joined by songs of praise from Japan, Korea, and Southeast Asia, from Malaysia, the Philippines and India. While we were still living our yesterday, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

DamberAnd into the Holy Land itself, pilgrims walking the very way of the shepherds and magi 2000 years ago, they sang out their joy. As our Saturday turned into Sunday, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce           Into Madagascar, South Africa, Russia, and Eastern Europe the wave of Glorias continued. While we were still sleeping, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

DamberAs the sun rose over Western Europe—in Naples and Rome, in the villages of the Rhine and chalets of the Alps, in the great cathedrals of France, while we were yet sleeping, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce           In London and Madrid, in Lisbon, Cardiff, Dublin, and Glasgow, in West Africa, while the dark of night still surrounded us, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

DamberAcross the Atlantic to Iceland and Greenland; and in Brazil the sounds of praise echo onward. While we slept, *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce           Even as the sun touched the shores of Newfoundland, and the wave of Glorias reached our own land, in Eastern South America and in Cuba and Bermuda, *God's people sang "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

DamberThe Christmas sun journeyed on through the Maritimes, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. As we were stirring from our sleep, we could almost hear them as *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce           And now this glorious Christmas morn has awakened the Eastern Provinces, the Atlantic Coast of the USA and the Eastern Caribbean to the peace, love, joy and hope of the birth of Jesus. And they join

the wave of Glorias and *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Damber And the wave of Glorias around the earth is not yet finished. The Manitoba sky embraces the Christmas sun, and the sound of Glorias rolls across the vast expanse of prairie and we join our voices with the groundswell and *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

Joyce The wave of Glorias travels west to the mountains and the ocean beyond, to the west Coast of Canada, to Mexico, Hawaii and Fiji. The sound will echo toward the date line as Fijians sing their praise. Now throughout the whole earth *God's people sing "Come and Worship Christ the new born King; Gloria in Excelsis."*

**Hymn:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

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 new-born king"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity  
Pleased as man with man to dwell  
Jesus, our Emmanuel

*Hark! The herald-angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King"*

Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!<sup>[1]</sup>  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings;  
Mild He lays His glory by  
Born that man no more may die  
Born to raise the sons of earth  
Born to give them second birth

*Hark! The herald angels sing  
"Glory to the new-born king"*

**Opening Prayer**

Damber

**A Christmas Affirmation of Faith**

Damber

We believe in Jesus Christ, and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.

**We believe in the One whose spirit was glorified a little town, and whose spirit brings music to people all over the world, in communities both large and small.**

We believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and we confess that our hearts still sometimes wish to exclude Christ from our lives today.

**We believe in the One whom the rulers of the earth ignored, and the proud could never understand, whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.**

We believe in the One who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible; whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love as its only wealth.

**We believe in the One who looked at people and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to wholeness, and who lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.**

We confess our ever-lasting need of God, the need for forgiveness for our selfishness and greed.

**We acknowledge our need for life for our empty souls, and the need for love in hearts grown cold.**

We believe that God's love is with us today as it was on that first Christmas and that we are never alone.

**Thanks be to God. Amen**

## Peace

**Hymn:**            *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.

O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!  
For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;  
So God imparts to 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!

## Children's Time

Joyce

**Hymn:**            *Away In a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-20

Damber

**Reflection**

Joyce

**Hymn:** *Ding Dong Merrily on High*

Ding Dong! merrily on high  
In heav'n the bells are ringing  
Ding, dong! verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angels singing  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis (X2)

E'en so here below, below  
Let steeple bells be swungen  
And i-o, i-o, i-o  
By priest and people be sungen  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis (X2)

Pray you dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers  
May you beautifully rhyme  
Your evetime song, ye singers  
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis. (X2)

**Community Prayers**

Damber

**Lord's Prayer**

Damber

**Hymn:** *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord has come!  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven and nature sing  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing

Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!  
Let men their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders, of His love

**Blessing**

Joyce

Go now in hope, with a song in your hearts.  
Go now into the service of the Prince of Peace.  
Go now with joy, a sign of God's presence.  
Go now with a love which is gently strong,  
to take up the work of Christmas, that now begins.

May the love of God, the great source and mystery of life, surround us.  
May the presence of our Saviour, whose birth we celebrate, be with us.  
And may the Spirit of God empower and enable us today and always.