

Triune Mercy Center

Greenville, South Carolina

December 24, 2021

Litany of the Incarnation by Wild Goose Worship Group

One: When the time was right, God sent the Son;

Organ Side: sent him and nourished him,

Piano Side: reared him and risked him,

Organ Side: filled him with laughter and tears and compassion,

Piano Side: filled him with anger, love and devotion.

One: Unwelcomed child, refugee and runaway,

ALL: Christ is God's own son.

One: Feeder and teacher, healer and antagonist,

ALL: Christ is God's own son.

One: Lover of the unlovable, toucher of the untouchable, forgiver of the unforgivable,

ALL: Christ is God's own son.

One: Loved and feared by all, befriended by the weak, despised by the strong, deserted by his listeners, betrayed by his friends, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, writing heaven's pardon over earth's mistakes,

ALL: Christ is God's own son.

One: The Word became flesh;

ALL: Christ came among us, he was one of us.

You are God's child, and you are welcome in this place.

"Christmas Comes"

Christmas comes every time

we see God in other persons.

The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem

or in Times Square,

For Christmas comes like a golden storm

on its way to Jerusalem -

Determinedly, inevitably...

Even now it comes

In the face of hatred and warring -

No atrocity too terrible to stop it,

No Herod strong enough,

No hurt deep enough,

No curse shocking enough,

No disaster shattering enough -

For someone on earth will see the star,

Someone will hear the angel voices,

Someone will run to Bethlehem,

Someone will know

peace and goodwill:

The Christ will be born!

~Ann Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem

222 Rutherford St.
Greenville, SC 29609
864-233-8020

Worship – 11:00 am
www.triunemercy.org

Pastor: Jennifer Fouse Sheorn
Music Director: Andy Welchel
Sound: Sydney Anderson
Guitar and Vocals: Rachael Mason
Song Leaders: David Raulston, Bronwyn White

Interim Associate Pastor: Jeff Brown
Live-streaming: Tyler Robinson
Percussion: Ike Maddox
Bass: Trey Mason

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 24, 2021
Christmas Eve

Prelude Andy Welchel

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Hymn "Away in a Manger" AAH #209

Call to Worship

Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened.
Let us go, with the shepherds:

Let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

Let us go with those who are wise:

Let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh;

Let us go with those who are humbled by life:

Let us find the Glory of God born in a stable and placed in a feeding trough.

O come let us go to Bethlehem;

O come, let us adore him! Christ our Lord!

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Meditation "Adore Him" (Samuel Lane) Rachael Mason

Prayer of Confession

God of Love Incarnate, forgive us when our shadowed lives dim your light, the commercialism of Christmas means more to us than your truth, when our hearts of stone resist the pain and brokenness around us. Have mercy on us and by your grace change us, so that our hearts would become cradles for your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Great news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to all. In Jesus Christ, we're forgiven! Glory to God in heaven and on earth, peace.

Musical Response "Joy to the World" (stanzas 1, 2 & 4) UMH #246

Scripture Luke 2: 1-14

Sermon Jennifer Fouse Sheorn

Affirmation of Faith *Litany of the Incarnation* See back page

Celebration of Communion

Communion songs (see insert)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

"It Came Upon The Midnight Clear"

"What Child is This?"

"The First Noel"

Spreading the Light of the Christ Candle

"Silent Night" UMH #239

Benediction

Please turn cell phones off, and keep masks on at all times, while maintaining a safe distance from other worshipers.

We will gather for worship on Sunday, Dec. 26th at 11AM.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Communion Songs

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Oh 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.

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

“What Child Is This?”

What child is this who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him laud
The babe, the son of Mary

“The First Noel”

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!

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