

# The Lord's Service

December 22, 2019

*\*Standing together is our ordinary practice,  
but you are welcome to remain seated.*

Prelude

Alayne Griffin and Evangeline Wykoff

\*Song of Praise and Greeting

*Creation Sings*

Creation sings the Father's song;

He calls the sun to wake the dawn and run the course of day  
Till evening falls in crimson rays.

His fingerprints in flakes of snow,

His breath upon this spinning globe,

He charts the eagle's flight; commands the newborn baby's cry.

Chorus: Hallelujah! Let all creation stand and sing,

"Hallelujah!" Fill the earth with songs of worship;

Tell the wonders of creation's King.

Creation gazed upon His face;

The ageless One in time's embrace

Unveiled the Father's plan of reconciling God and man.

A second Adam walked the earth,

Whose blameless life would break the curse,

Whose death would set us free to live with Him eternally.

(Chorus)

Creation longs for His return,

When Christ shall reign upon the earth;

The bitter wars that rage are birth pains of a coming age.

When He renews the land and sky,

All heav'n will sing and earth reply

With one resplendent theme: the glories of our God and King!

(Chorus)

(2009 Thankyou Music)

Welcome and Announcements

# God Calls Us

*In silent meditation, let us prepare to meet God in worship.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle      The John Pippin Family

\*Call to Worship      Psalm 68.32-35

LEADER: O kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; sing praises to the Lord, to him who rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;

PEOPLE: **Behold, he sends out his voice, his mighty voice.**

LEADER: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies. Awesome is God from his sanctuary; the God of Israel -

PEOPLE: **He is the one who gives power and strength to his people. Blessed be God!**

\*Hymn      No. 195

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

\*Invocation      Elder John Wykoff

## God Cleanses Us

Call to Confession      2 Corinthians 7.1

LEADER: Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit,

PEOPLE: **Bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God.**

*Whether seated or kneeling,  
let us approach the Lord together with a posture of reverence.*

### Call to Worship

We are called into worship by God Himself. He sets the terms for worship because He makes worship possible through Jesus Christ.

### Invocation

This prayer addresses God in three persons, asking Him to be present with us in worship to help us worship Him according to His will.

### Call to Confession

As we see God in His invitation and our praise, we cannot help but see how we have fallen short of **His glory**. God's Holy Scripture has the authority to reveal us to ourselves and transition our hearts to confession.

### **Corporate Confession of Sin**

We sin in thought, word, and deed every week. Our prayer includes time not only for individual silent confession, but also confession that unites our voices as a body of people equally and desperately in need of God's grace.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

God's Holy Scripture reminds us not only of who we are as sinners, but also assures us of who we are as Christians united to Jesus in His death and resurrection.

### **Scripture Lesson**

We hear and read Holy Scripture throughout the service. This lesson, or reading, helps prepare us for the Scripture lesson that will be preached from later.

### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

The tithe is our regular, worshipful setting apart of a portion of our resources for the purpose of God, while an offering is an additional portion we return to God for His glory. Both are a display of our joyful dependence upon God rather than our money.

## **Corporate Confession of Sin (in unison)**

**Almighty, eternal God and Father,  
we confess and acknowledge unto You  
that we were conceived in unrighteousness  
and are full of sin and transgression in all our life.  
We do not fully believe Your Word  
nor follow Your holy commandments.  
Remember Your goodness, we beseech You,  
and for Your Name's sake be gracious unto us,  
and forgive us our iniquity which truly is great.  
Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

2 Corinthians 5.17, 21

**LEADER:** Lift up your heads and hear the Good News:  
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."  
The peace of the Lord be with you!

**PEOPLE:** And also with you!

### **\*Hymn**

No. 203

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

## **God Consecrates Us**

### **Scripture Lesson**

Elder Jim Hildebrand

Jeremiah 31.6-14 (p. 658)

**LEADER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

### **Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

# Choral Worship

*Alleluia*

Alleluia. Amen.  
(Thompson, 1940 E.C. Schirmer Music)

\*Doxology No. 218 v. 5

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to th' eternal Three in One:  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the  
newborn King.

\*Prayer of the Church Pastor Mullinax

\*Hymn No. 213

*What Child Is This*

Scripture Lesson Luke 2.25-35 (p. 857)

Sermon Pastor Jones

**THERE SHALL BE A DAY**

\*Hymn No. 215 v. 4

*While by the Sheep We Watched at Night*

\*Confession of Faith (in unison) Belgic Confession, 17

**We believe that our most gracious God,  
in His admirable wisdom and goodness,  
seeing that man had thus thrown himself  
into temporal and eternal death  
and made himself wholly miserable,  
was pleased to seek and comfort him,  
when he trembling fled from His presence,  
promising Him that He would give His Son,  
Who should be made of a woman,  
to bruise the head of the serpent,  
and would make him happy.**

## ***Doxology***

A *doxology* is a hymn or word of praise to God for His goodness and glory. The *Gloria Patri* is another example of a doxology.

## **Prayer of the Church**

We share in our health and sickness, happiness and sorrow, assurance and doubt, as we bring our prayers to God, together. Holy Scripture commands pastors to pray with and for God's people, not just in corporate worship, but privately, as well.

## **Scripture Lesson**

We hear and read Holy Scripture throughout the service, but this lesson, or reading, prepares us for the sermon text.

## **Sermon**

A preacher is commanded to faithfully steward God's Holy Scripture by submitting to it, studying it, and expositing it (holding it forth), bearing witness to Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Confession of Faith**

By confessing our faith together using statements believed by Christians over the ages, we join in the sweep of Christian history even as we await the return of Jesus.

\*Gloria Patri

No. 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.

## God Commissions Us

### Benediction

Just as God calls us to worship at the beginning of the service with Holy Scripture, He sends us into our week with a Holy Scripture reminder (*a good word*) of the blessing of Christ, by God's grace, through the indwelling Spirit.

\*Benediction

Pastor Jones

Postlude

Evangeline Wykoff and Alayne Griffin