

THOSE
WHO *will not*
keep silent
DREAM

1ST sunday after christmas



THE 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
A Service of the Word

December 27, 2020 ✦ 10:00 a.m.

The 1st Sunday of Christmas

“The years of old age ... are indeed formative years, rich in possibilities to unlearn the follies of a lifetime, to see through inbred self-deceptions, to deepen understanding and compassion, to widen the horizon of honesty, to refine the sense of fairness.”

— Abraham Joshua Heschel

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Welcome

Greeting

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Call to Worship

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

Many: **We speak of love.**

One: We speak of joy.

Many: **We speak of candle light and fireside.**

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

Many: **We speak of “glorias” and angel choruses.**

One: We speak the words, “Do not be afraid.”

Many: **Here on the heels of Christmas, we are called to speak,
for the world needs a light.**

One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

Many: **Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak.**

Hymn — “Joy to the World”

this bulletin, pg. 6

Prayer of the Day

One: Let us pray.

Many: God of today and tomorrow,
We know
that your fingerprints are all over this world.
And we know
that those who dream cannot keep silent.
So today we pray,
give us eyes to see you.
Give us courage to trust you.
And give us lips to speak of you in our midst.
Gratefully, we pray. Amen.

Be the Church: A Participatory and Embodied Response

Worshippers will need a cell phone, tablet, or computer handy...

News from our Life Together

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading — Luke 2:22-40

Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.

Hymn — "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

this bulletin, pg. 7, vss. 2, 3

Reflecting on the Word — "Those Who Dream *will not keep silent*"

All worshippers

RESPONSE

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel in prayer and offering

A Poetic Reading — "Swell" by Sarah Are

Reflective Prayer

The Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Many: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and glory forever. Amen.

Responding with our Gifts

Give online: Go to www.storrscongchurch.org and click the green "Give now..." button.

Text: Text "StorrsCongChurch" to 73256, followed by your gift amount (i.e. "StorrsCongChurch \$100").

Those participating via Zoom are welcome to submit prayer petitions (joys and concerns) via the Chat feature.

An Offering Thought

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. – Isaiah 61:10

What's the appropriate response to Christmas? Joy and praise, of course! This week's lessons brim with both. This Christmas season steward not only your resources but also your joy and praise for the One who changed everything.

OFFERTORY MUSIC — "My Lord Has Come" by Will Todd

SCC Choral Scholars

Shepherds called by angel.

Called by angels.

Called by Love and angels.

No place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come!

Sages searching for stars.

Searching for Love in Heaven.

No place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come!

His Love will hold me!

His Love will cherish me.

Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see Him.

Sages and Shepherds and angels.

No place for them but a stable.

No place for me but a stable.

No place for me but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come!

Affirmation

One: We believe in telling the story—

Many: **the story of a loving and merciful God,
who will not let God’s people go;
the story of a baby who grew up and changed the world;
the story of our faith.**

One: We believe in speaking up—

Many: **for our neighbors,
for the oppressed,
for the overlooked
and marginalized.**

One: We believe in speaking out—

many: **against violence,
greed,
abuse,
fear,
scarcity mindset,
and bigotry.**

One: We believe in passing the mic—

Many: **so that we are not the only ones speaking,
so that we can lift up the voices of those around us,
so that we too might listen and learn.**

One: We believe in the good news of the gospel.

Many: **We believe that this good news is too good to keep to ourselves.
We believe that those who dream cannot keep silent.**

One: Speak to us, Holy God.

Many: **Speak through us, Holy God. May it be so, Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

Hymn — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

this bulletin, pg. 8

Benediction

Postlude

Dr. Patricia Snyder

Following the postlude, the Zoom Meeting will remain open for those who wish to connect and chat—a bring-your-own-coffee “coffee hour”! We look forward to connecting with you!

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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.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi-ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

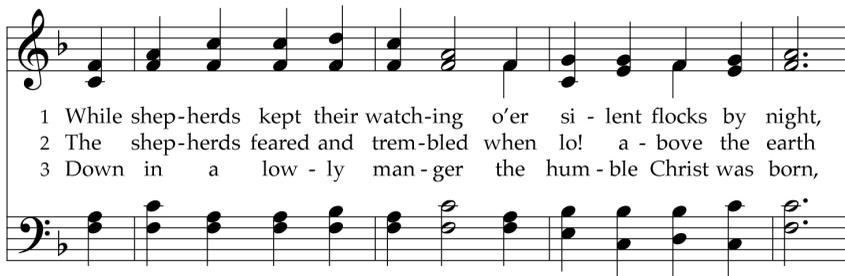
Refrain 



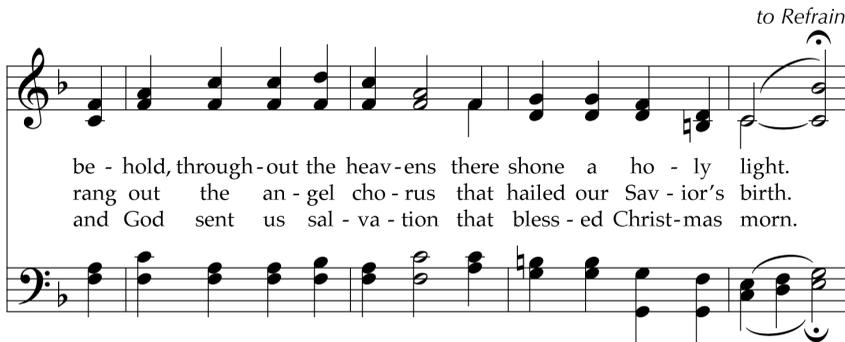
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Notes and Acknowledgements

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