**Christmas Day**



**Friday, December 25th, 2020**

***a worship service for home and family***

*This worship service is meant to be done at home on Christmas, perhaps before or after opening presents or sharing a delicious brunch. You can work through these words of worship alone, but they’re better when done with family and friends. Songs are printed at the end for you to sing together, or pick one of your own Christmas favorites to sing. You might even play the music off a recording or from the internet to sing along with or just to listen to. In this worship you’ll find ways of sharing and celebrating life with those around you by sharing, reading, talking, praying, and blessing one another. God bless you this Christmas. -Pastor Rory Philstrom*

**Gather**

I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the shepherds’ song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The angels sing: the archangels, the cherubim, the seraphim. The one who is above now dwells here below for our redemption. Since therefore all rejoice, I too desire to rejoice. I take my part, not plucking the harp, but holding in my arms the cradle of Christ. For this is all my hope, my life, my salvation, my pipe, my harp. I too sing with the angels, “Glory to God in the highest,” and with the shepherds, “Peace to God’s people on Earth.”

—Saint John Chrysostom

**Sing**

***Sing together one of the songs printed in the back.***

**Share**

***From John 1:1-14***

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2The Word was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through the Word, without whom not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10The light was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of a man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

***Take some time now to let each person share their “lows”. Where in your life has there been “darkness” in the last year? When were there times when you felt like the world did not know you, or did not accept you?***

***Psalm 98***

1Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done|marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have|won the victory.
2O Lord, you have made|known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight|of the nations.
3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the|house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory|of our God.
4Shout with joy to the LORD,|all you lands;
lift up your voice, re-|joice, and sing.
5Sing to the LORD|with the harp,
with the harp and the|voice of song.
6With trumpets and the sound|of the horn
shout with joy before the|king, the LORD.
7Let the sea roar, and|all that fills it,
the world and those who|dwell therein.
8Let the rivers|clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to|judge the earth.
9The LORD will judge the|world with righteousness
and the peo-|ples with equity.

***Take some time now to let each person share their “highs”. Where there any times this last year where things were going so well that it seemed like Creation itself was singing and ringing out with joy?***

**Read**

***From Hebrews 1***

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

5For to which of the angels did God ever say,
 “You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?
Or again,
 “I will be his Father,
  and he will be my Son”?
6And again, when the Lord brings the firstborn into the world, God says,
 “Let all God’s angels worship him.”
7Of the angels God says,
 “They make their angels winds,
  and their servants flames of fire.”
8But of the Son, God says,
 “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
  and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
 9You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
 therefore God, your God, has anointed you
  with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”
10And,
 “In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
  and the heavens are the work of your hands;
 11they will perish, but you remain;
  they will all wear out like clothing;
 12like a cloak you will roll them up,
  and like clothing they will be changed.
 But you are the same,
  and your years will never end.”

**Talk**

***Take a few moments to talk about how the Bible readings might relate to your highs and lows.***

What is God trying to say to your life?

What do the Bible verses mean to you today?

**Sing**

***Sing together one of the songs printed in the back.***

**Pray**

*Pray for one another’s highs and lows.*

*One person prays for all or go around a circle and each pray for the person on their right.*

*You could begin your prayer with these words:*

**Holy and creative God, as we celebrate Christmas, we join the joyful praise of the cosmos, and we pray for our needs and all in need.…**

*You could end your prayer with these words:*

**O God, Majesty on high, Word of salvation, Power of glory, on this holy day we ask you to receive our prayers and to visit the world with your love, granting new life to the earth and its peoples. through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Bless**

***Bless one another with a word and touch of blessing.***

*You may bless each other with words like these:*

**The light and love and word of Jesus Christ bless you now and forever.**

*A kiss is a blessing…a hug is a blessing…a hand squeeze is a blessing…a smile is a blessing*

*…these all have power.*

**Sing**

***Sing together one of the songs printed in the back.***

**Send**

***Say or shout these words together:***

***JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME!***

***MERRY CHRISTMAS!***

******

******

******