

*Waverly Road Presbyterian Church Worship  
Sunday, December 27, 2020*

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Josh Parsons

**PRELUDE**

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Gordon Young

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We waited and imagined a savior. We imagined power; power like the world,  
but stronger and on our side.

*We received a baby born in a stable among the livestock.*

We imagined the work done for us, life made easier and with less struggle.

*We received a baby who will lead us to seek reconciliation, to serve  
those we do not know, and to love expansively.*

Praise be to God for the unexpected babe of Bethlehem.

*Praise be to God who loves us and calls us to join in loving.*

**HYMN 136**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,*

*Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! Above the earth*

*Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain over the hills and everywhere.*

*Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,*

*And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (repeat chorus)*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

*Lord Jesus Christ, at your birth the angels gave glory to God in the  
highest heaven, and offered peace on earth to all humankind. We struggle  
to follow the heavenly host. All too often we focus on giving glory to  
ourselves, trying to impress our friends, coworkers, and family. We make*

*no move to further peace in our polarized world; we forget that you have called us to be ambassadors of reconciliation. Forgive us for these and all our sins, and strengthen us to join the angels' song.*

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

How much does God love us? Enough to send the divine heart, hope, and spirit to us, not to condemn us, but to save us.

*Not by our speaking or doing, but by God's good and precious grace are we saved. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

### TIME WITH CHILDREN

Julie Vogel

### ANTHEM

"The Gift"

Gene Grier

*John Gilmer and Julie Vogel*

*What gift shall we bring to the child at Christmastime? What gift shall we bring to the child this morn? Shall we bring him treasures of myrrh and frankincense; gold for a babe newborn? Gifts to proclaim him King of kings forever on this blessed morning of his holy birth. What gift shall we bring to the child at Christmastime? A gift to bring peace on earth. Bring a gift that is simple; bring a gift that is free. Bring a gift that keeps love where it ought to be. And when he feels your gift of a love so warm, he'll sleep in his cradle safe from harm. Simple gifts to love him, praise his name forever, on his happy morning, celebrate his birth. Bring a gift of love, good will to all mankind, a gift that brings peace on earth.*

### SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40 & Galatians 4:4-7

### SERMON

"The Manger in a Pandemic"

Tim Nolen

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all his works, and whose will is ever directed to his children's good.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of man, the gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives, whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and find strength and help in time of need.*

*We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom of God may come upon the earth. Amen*

## **PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Generous God, you have given each of us gifts to use as members of the body of Christ. Here are our gifts – the work of our hands, our hearts, and our lives. We pray that they may help to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to our world, today and always, here and everywhere. Amen.*

### **HYMN 119**                    *“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 angelic hosts proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"  
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ by highest Heav'n 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 in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Hail the Heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!"*

## **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

*“Today in Bethlehem”*

Rick Parks