

ORDER OF WORSHIP - DECEMBER 29, 2024
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

Dr. John Hatton

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Pastorale on "Gesù Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon

Dr. James Humlong

INTROIT

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

arr. Gustav Holst

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Pastor Parker Outman

God's love has come to earth to dwell with us.

Sing for joy with the angels.

We are God's chosen people, loved and cherished.

Sing for joy with the angels.

The birth of Love has changed us forever.

Sing for joy with the angels.

Let us sing, praise, rejoice, and worship together!

***HYMN 238**

Angels We Have Heard on High

***PSALTER LESSON**

Psalm 148

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise the Lord, in the heights!

**Praise the Lord, all his angels,
praise the Lord, all his hosts!**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon,
praise the Lord, all shining stars!

**Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and all waters above the heavens!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded and they were created,

**who established them for ever and ever,
and fixed their bounds which cannot be passed.**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea monsters and all deeps,

**fire and hail, snow and smoke,
stormy wind fulfilling God's command!**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

**Beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!

**Young men and maidens together,
old men and children!**

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name alone is exalted,
whose glory is above earth and heaven.

**God has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful ones,
for the people of Israel who are near their God.
Praise the Lord!**

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

ANTHEM

Chancel Choir
Hannah James, flute

Like a Child

Daniel James Damon

Like a child love would send to reveal and to mend,
like a child and a friend, Jesus comes.
Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul and mind,
like a child strong and kind, Jesus comes.

Like a child we will meet, ragged clothes, dirty feet,
like a child on the street, Jesus comes.
Like a child we once knew coming back into view,
like a child born anew, Jesus comes.

Like a child born to pray and to show us the way,
like a child here to stay, Jesus comes.
Like a child we receive all that love can conceive,
like a child we believe, Jesus comes.

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Hannah James

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor Parker Outman

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Faithful God, we rejoice that you have sent your promised Christ.
And yet, O God, we confess that we are still not ready for Christ's coming;
we are reluctant to live as if the whole earth were your domain.
We know the story - the shepherds, the angels, the magi -
but we don't fully understand what it means.
Awaken us to your Spirit, let Christ's birth make a difference in our lives,
and grant us your peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.
O God, come to us; abide with us, Emmanuel, to save us; to set us free.
Glory to God. Amen.

HYMN 221

stanza 4

In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Parker Outman

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

Bob Hooker, tenor

The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman, text; Dan Forrest, music

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF BLESSING

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Elizabeth Hughes

Luke 2: 41-52

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival. When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual. After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His

parents didn't miss him at first, because they assumed he was among the other travelers. But when he didn't show up that evening, they started looking for him among their relatives and friends.

When they couldn't find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there. Three days later they finally discovered him in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, listening to them and asking questions. All who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents didn't know what to think. "Son," his mother said to him, "why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere."

"But why did you need to search?" he asked. "Didn't you know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they didn't understand what he meant.

Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And his mother stored all these things in her heart.

Jesus grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and all the people.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Dr. John Hatton

***HYMN 249**

There's a Song in the Air

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

Unto Us is Born a Son

arr. John Dixon