

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Praise the Lord of the whole universe -
the heavens, the angels, the sun, moon and shining stars.

**People: the earth and everything within it -
every animal and bird, every fish and creature of the seas;**

Leader: every mountain and hill, every tree and plant, every ocean,
river and stream, praise the Lord

**Leader and People: Praise the Lord every ruler and government,
all people of every age and every color. Praise the One whose glory the angels
sang: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among
all people."**

Opening Prayer (in unison).

Gracious and loving God, on this day we sing glory with the angels to the new
born King, ever marveling at the greatness of your love for us. Each year the
breadth of your love brings forth from us a response of praise as we sing
traditional carols and hear words of scripture. We praise you for your great gift
of love in Jesus Christ, who brings to birth in us love for you. On this last day of
this year, as we look to a new and unknown future, we know we can embrace the
unknown with confidence. You have empowered us with your Spirit to face
whatever the future holds. For these blessings we offer our praise and
thanksgiving in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen

Opening Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

#144

Debbie Cotting

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The Flower Committee is so grateful to all who helped with the Christmas poinsettias. The sanctuary looked so beautiful with a burst of red. Thank you to Brian Gilfoyle and Plantscape Design for supplying the plants. We appreciate all who donated and the volunteers who delivered the poinsettias to the shut ins and bereaved in our church family.



Go Tell It on the Mountain

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Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere;
Go tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

New Testament Reading
Galatians 4:4-7

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The Message

But when the time arrived that was set by God the Father, God sent his Son, born among us of a woman, born under the conditions of the law so that he might redeem those of us who have been kidnapped by the law. Thus we have been set free to experience our rightful heritage. You can tell for sure that you are now fully adopted as his own children because God sent the Spirit of his Son into our lives crying out, "Papa! Father!" Doesn't that privilege of intimate conversation with God make it plain that you are not a slave, but a child? And if you are a child, you're also an heir, with complete access to the inheritance.

Children's Time

Call to Offering

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (in unison)

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 the glory, forever, Amen

Anthem Solist: Pat Hanson

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

God, you can now release your servant;
release me in peace as you promised.
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,
and of glory for your people Israel.

Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother,

This child marks both the failure and
the recovery of many in Israel,
A figure misunderstood and contradicted—
the pain of a sword-thrust through you—
But the rejection will force honesty,
as God reveals who they really are.

Message: "Forced Honesty"

Closing Hymn: "Go Tell it On the Mountain"

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Benediction

Postlude

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The Message

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing page # 144

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinner reconciled!"
Joyful, all you saints arise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angel host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the Christ-child bring"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time the Savior comes,
offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]

Hail the Bearer of God's peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life our Saviour brings,
risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us all from earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]