



Fairmont Presbyterian Church
Kettering, Ohio
December 27, 2020

FAIRMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Order of Service for the Worship of God

Fairmont Presbyterian Church nurtures and guides people to live inspired lives.

December 27, 2020

10:30am

1st Sunday of Christmas

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Brian Maguire

Prelude

The First Noel

arr. by Sally DeFord

Call to Worship (*Psalm 148*)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights!

People: Praise God, all the angels; praise him, all the heavenly host!

Leader: Praise God, sun and moon; praise God, all you shining stars!

People: Praise God, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted; God's glory is above earth and heaven. Come let us praise and worship our God who comes to us!

Hymn 145

What Child Is This

Greensleeves

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through;
the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail, the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high.
The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of new life, in this season of light we cling to shadows. We confess that we hold our fears more tightly than your hope. Our fears of failure and unpopularity keep us from living according to you will. Our despair keep us from embracing your Kingdom. Our fears of dependency keep us from relying on you. Forgive our erring ways. Forgive us our sin. Lead us in strength to new courage and wisdom so that we might share in the work of Jesus Christ in this world...*(silent confession)*...Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Congregational Response 113

Angels We Have Heard on High
(verse 1)

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Passing of Christ's Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Time with Our Children

Loralei Harding

Anthem

Go, Tell It on the Mountain
The Bell Choir

Lloyd Larson

Prayer for Illumination

Reading

Isaiah 61:11-62:3

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

⁶² For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

² The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³ You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Beulah

Rev. Brian Maguire

Hymn 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right

hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (concluding with the Lord's Prayer)

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.

Doxology *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, Ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Invitation and Prayer of Discipleship

Hymn 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell It

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)

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Bring a Torch

Jeanette Isabella, also arr. by Sally DeFord.

(Music and words are used with permission of CCLI License #930368)

Within the Fellowship

For prayer concerns or if you would like to be part of the Email Prayer Chain Team, please contact:
Rev. Kelley Shin at kshin@fairmontchurch.org.

For emergencies, contact Rev. Brian Maguire at (937) 269-2864 or Rev. Kelley Shin at (937) 751-0752.

Announcements

No Kidz Korner or PYC today.

No Connections or Bible Study this week.

Fairmont Church Closed December 24-January 13

Upon the recommendation of our Medical Advisory Group, the Session has decided to close Fairmont for all activities (*except preschool*) between December 24 and January 13. Our community is anticipated to reach peak rates of transmission of infection during this time and we seek to do everything we can to help keep people safe. While the church will be closed, staff will still be collecting postal mail, and can be reached at any time by email or cell phone. Be careful, stay safe, and stay healthy.

Next Sunday, January 3rd, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. You are invited to share in the celebration of communion at home on January 3rd by obtaining some bread (bread, roll, cracker, etc...) and/or some liquid grape juice (fermented wine or unfermented juice) and have those present for worship. You are not required to do both the cup and the bread in order to celebrate this sacrament. One element is enough for it to be communion. We will then share in the prayers of thanksgiving and partake of the elements together.

2020 Stewardship Update

As of December 22, 2020, Fairmont has received \$507,021 of a total of \$550,000 pledged for 2020. Thank you so much for your faithful generosity! All contributions received by or postmarked by January 31st will be credited to 2020.

Worship Staff

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Children's Ministry Coordinator

Director of Music

Praise and Worship Leader

Church Organist

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145 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;


A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

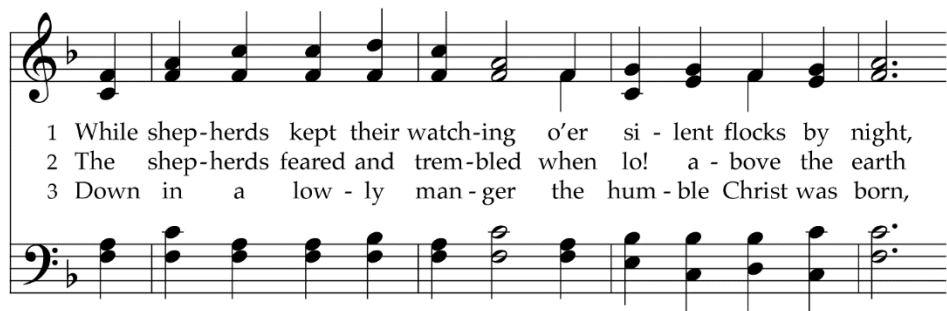
Refrain 



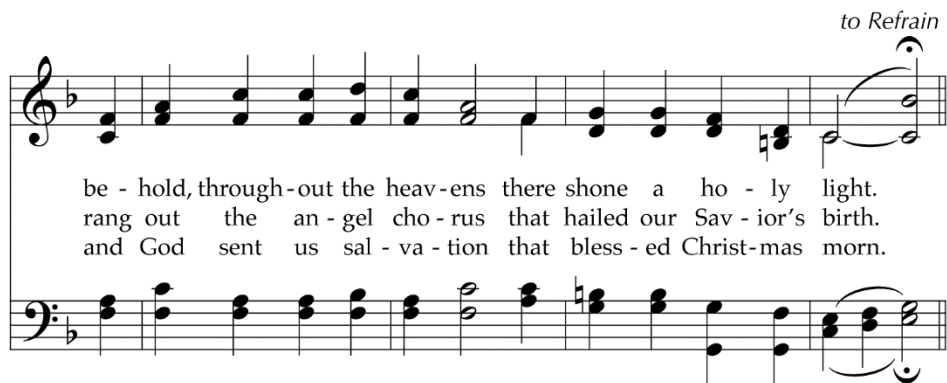
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



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.

