

# BIG CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rensselaer, MO

December 6, 2020 11:00 a.m.

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## Prelude

\*Hymn of Praise #170

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

## \*Prayer of Invocation

### \*Call to Worship

*(from Isaiah 9)*

**Leader:** *For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,*

**PEOPLE:** **And His Name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**Leader:** *Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.*

**PEOPLE:** **The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!**

\*Hymn #160

*"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"*

**Lighting of Advent Candles: PEACE**

*(from Luke 1)*

## Prayer of Confession (in unison):

Eternal Father, during this season of Advent You remind us of the years of waiting until Your Son Jesus was given to us. Yet too often I do **not trust** the timing of Your good purposes, so I quickly grow **impatient, pushy, or withdrawn**. This is my sin. Father, forgive me by Your great mercy. Transform me, that the hope of Christ would rule in my heart, by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

**Private Prayers** (silently before God)

## Words of Assurance

*Romans 3:23-26*

\*Gloria Patri Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

And to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

World without end. Amen, amen.

\*Affirmation of Faith (printed on insert):

*Westminster Confession*

## Welcome & Announcements

*(Children may remain with parents in the sanctuary, nursery, or upstairs.)*

## Sharing of Needs and Mercies

**Prayers of the People / Lord's Prayer** (printed in insert)

## Worshiping God with Tithes & Offerings

### \*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

### \*Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn #149

*"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"*

## Prayer of Illumination

### Scripture Message

*Guest Preacher, Dr. Bob Bergen*

\*Sending Hymn #163

*"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"*

### \*Benediction

The LORD bless you and keep you;

the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

*(And all God's people said...)*

\*Response:

Christ has come, full of grace and truth. Amen.

### \*Postlude

*\* Please stand, if you are able and it is comfortable for you.*

*Assistive listening devices are available upon request.*

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*Rev. Nathan Markley, Pastor*

*Elder Ralph Harn, Liturgist*

*Rebecca McElroy, Pianist*

*All Members, Ministers*

**\*Hymn of Praise #170 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

1 O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem! Come and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels! O come, let us adore Him (3x)  
Christ, the Lord!

2 O sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God,  
All Glory in the highest! O come, let us adore Him (3x)  
Christ, the Lord!

3 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus, to Thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing! O come, let us adore Him (3x)  
Christ, the Lord! Amen.

**\*Hymn #160 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"**

1 It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, From heaven's all-gracious King":  
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.

2 Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.

3 And ye, beneath life's crushing load, Whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way With painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours Come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road, And hear the angels sing.

4 For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.  
Amen.

**\*Hymn #149 "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night"**

1 Watchman, tell us of the night, What its signs of promise are:  
Traveler, o'er yon mountain's height, See that glory-beaming star!  
Watchman, doth its beauteous ray Aught of joy or hope foretell?  
Traveler, yes; it brings the day, Promised day of Israel.

2 Watchman, tell us of the night; Higher yet that star ascends:  
Traveler, blessedness and light, Peace and truth, its course portends.  
Watchman, will its beams alone Gild the spot that gave them birth?  
Traveler, ages are its own, And it bursts o'er all the earth!

3 Watchman, tell us of the night; For the morning seems to dawn:  
Traveler, darkness takes its flight; Doubt and terror are withdrawn.  
Watchman, let thy wanderings cease; Hie thee to thy quiet home.  
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace, Lo, the Son of God, is come! Amen.

**\*Sending Hymn #163 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"**

1 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 th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Refrain: Hark, the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the Everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come To the earth from heaven's home;  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail th' incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Ref.]

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. [Ref.]  
Amen.

## Announcements

1. Mark your calendars: Our annual Candlelight Christmas Service is currently scheduled for **December 20** at 7:00 p.m. Adjustments may be made to this year's service. Details are upcoming.
2. Pastor Nathan will be unavailable through December 12. Please direct any concerns to the Elders during this time.
3. Monthly Bible study will **not** be meeting in December.
4. Session will meet **this Saturday** (Dec. 12) around 10:00 a.m.

## A note to parents:

We're always glad when kids join us in the sanctuary to worship God! If you wish, children ages 0-4 may exit to the nursery downstairs after the Welcome. Parents are also free to use the upstairs balcony any time with their children, accessible up the stairs just outside the sanctuary.



## *Westminster Confession of Faith*

*(Chapter VIII.2 "Christ the Mediator")*

The Son of God, the second person of the Trinity,  
is truly the eternal God,  
of one substance and equal with the Father.

In the fullness of time,  
he took on himself the nature of man,  
with all the essential qualities  
and ordinary frailties of man—  
except that he was sinless.

Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
in the womb of the Virgin Mary  
out of her substance.

These two complete, perfect, and distinct natures  
(the Godhead and the manhood)  
were inseparably joined together  
in the one person of Jesus  
without being altered, disunited or jumbled.

The person Jesus is truly God and truly man,  
yet one Christ,  
the only mediator between God and man.

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The Westminster Confession of Faith (written 1600s England) has been professed for centuries as a concise confession of the essential truths of the Christian faith according to the Scriptures. It remains the EPC standard of doctrinal foundation.