

BIG CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rensselaer, MO

December 5, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Prelude

*Hymn of Praise #170

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*Prayer of Invocation

*Call to Worship

(from Psalm 28)

Leader: *Blessed be the LORD! For He has heard the voice of our pleas for mercy. The LORD is my strength and my shield. In Him my heart trusts, and I am helped.*

PEOPLE: My heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him.

Leader: *The LORD is the strength of His people, the saving refuge of His anointed. Oh, save Your people and bless Your heritage!*

PEOPLE: O LORD, be our shepherd and carry us forever.

*Hymn #149

“Watchman Tell Us of the Night”

Lighting of Advent Candles: PEACE

(from Luke 1)

Prayer of Confession (in unison):

Almighty God, in my heart there is **abundance of sin**, but in You there is abundance of mercy. We are **spiritually poor**, but in You there are riches of kindness and glory. We are **empty**, but in You there is fullness of peace. Forgive us for **not trusting** in Jesus, the Anointed One who was sent to save. Create in us a clean heart—resting in His righteousness for our unrighteousness—and bring us to follow after You by the power of Your Holy Spirit.

Private Prayers (silently before God)

Words of Assurance

Romans 5:1

***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 Catechism

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 #160

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Message

Matthew 1:16-18

(page 807)

***Sending Hymn #163**

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*Benediction & Response

Jesus is the Christ! Hallelujah!

*Postlude

** Please stand, if you are able and it is comfortable for you.
Assistive listening devices are available upon request.*

*Rev. Nathan Markley, Pastor
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 #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.

***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.

***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 heav'n-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) Angel Tree tags are available downstairs. Big Creek has adopted three families, a total of six children. If you want to purchase gift items, have those to Big Creek by **Dec. 19**, or you can contribute money for purchase to Janet Taylor by **today**.
- 2) Our annual Christmas Candlelight worship service is in two weeks (**Dec. 19**). Stay for desserts afterward. The offering that evening will go toward Child Evangelism Fellowship.
- 3) Take note of upcoming Christmas festivities:
 - a) **Christmas Tree Decoration:** December 11
 - b) **Angel Tree:** by December 19
 - c) **Christmas Candlelight Service:** December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

A note to parents:

We're always glad when kids join us in the sanctuary to worship God! While nursery services are still on hold for health safety, parents may keep kids with them in the sanctuary, in the downstairs nursery space, or in the balcony upstairs any time during the worship service.



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 21: *Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?*

A. The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one Person forever.

Q. 22: *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

A. Christ the Son of God became man by taking to Himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary and born of her, yet without sin.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (written in 1600s England) consists of brief questions and answers as a concise confession of the truths of the Christian faith according to the Scriptures. This is a modern English adaptation of the original.