

DECEMBER 27, 2020, 10:30 AM

WORD OF WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

****CALL TO WORSHIP (CONGREGATION SPEAKS RESPONSES IN BOLD PRINT)**

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,

Whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity,

And in whose spirit, there is no deceit.

****HYMN: "O FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES TO SING"**

1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.

CALL TO OFFERING****

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. A-men.

****PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Make straight the way of the Lord. Open our hearts in generosity and pour forth from us an offering of love for the grace we have all received. Bless these gifts and send them into the world as testimony to the One who loves us beyond measure or comprehension. Amen.

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (BELOW)

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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen

REFLECTION HYMN: "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY! LORD GOD ALMIGHTY"

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

2 Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before
thee,
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be.

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide
thee,
Though the eye made blind by sin thy glory
may not see,
Only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
Perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth
and sky and sea;
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We confess our sins before God and one another. *Pause for silence and reflection.*

Faithful God,

Your promises have never wavered, and yet we are not always willing to believe them. We descend into our own despair, unable to see past our immediate concerns. We drag others down with us and live to complain and commiserate. We ignore the miracles in front of our face. Forgive us for living such small lives, O Lord, and restore in us the wonder of what it is to be your people. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God is faithful; God is merciful; God does not hold our sins against us! For this we give you thanks, O Lord. Receive the assurance of your deliverance by the One who promised from of old to set us free, and who seeks and finds us to this very day. Alleluia! Amen.

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:21-38

MESSAGE: "SIMEON AND ANNA"

****HYMN: : "LORD OF THE DANCE"**

1. I danced in the morning
When the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon
And the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven
And I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem
I had my birth. **[Refrain]**

Refrain:

***Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he***

2. I danced for the scribe
And the pharisee,
But they would not dance
And they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fishermen,
For James and John
They came with me
And the Dance went on. **[Refrain]**

3. I danced on the Sabbath
And I cured the lame;
The holy people
Said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped
And they hung me on high,
And they left me there
On a Cross to die. **[Refrain]**

4. I danced on a Friday
When the sky turned black
It's hard to dance
With the devil on your back.
They buried my body
And they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance,
And I still go on. **[Refrain]**

5. They cut me down
And I leapt up high;
I am the life
That'll never, never die;
I'll live in you
If you'll live in me -
I am the Lord
Of the Dance, said he. **[Refrain]**

****THE BENEDICTION**