



CHRIST CHURCH
CONWAY

Prelude - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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Edith Margaret Gellibrand Reed

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
For His bed a cattle stall.
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
Noels ringing, tidings bringing,
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping.
Shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
Tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow.
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
Praises voicing, greet the morrow.
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you.

Praise

Call to Worship - Psalm 105.1-6

- [1] Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- [2] Sing to him, sing praises to him;
tell of all his wondrous works!
- [3] Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!
- [4] Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!
- [5] Remember the wondrous works that he has done,
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,
- [6] O offspring of Abraham, his servant,
children of Jacob, his chosen ones! (ESV)

Invocation

Hymn of Praise - How Firm a Foundation

Words: R. Keene.
Music: American folk tune.
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1. How firm a foundation, you saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled?
2. In every condition, in sickness, in health;
in poverty's vale, or abounding in wealth;
at home and abroad, on the land, on the sea,
thy days may demand, shall my strength ever be.
3. "Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

4. “The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to his foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to break,
I’ll never, no never, no never forsake.”

Affirmation of Faith - 1 Corinthians 15.3-6

Minister: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, what do you believe?

***Congregation:* That Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time.**

Hymn of Praise - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley | Derek Webb | Sandra McCracken

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1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the saints thou art.
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high, appear.
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news,
Glad tidings of a birth;
Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth.

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our redeemer, shepherd, friend.

Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall.
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

4. Born thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to thy glorious throne.

Confession

Scriptural Warning - Galatians 3.1-6

[1] O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. [2] Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? [3] Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? [4] Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? [5] Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—[6] just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”? (ESV)

Way of Salvation - Galatians 3.7-9

[7] Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. [8] And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” [9] So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. (ESV)

Confession of Sin - We Believe, Help Our Unbelief

Congregation: Most gracious Father, your Word teaches who you are and what you have done to accomplish redemption for your glory.

We read in your Word the wonderful promises of the Kingdom of God, promises which are ours in Christ Jesus, the only Savior, yet, hardening our hearts, fearing man,

desiring the world, and putting you to the test, we fail to believe and rest in your promises of grace, mercy, forgiveness, and redemption in Jesus Christ, in so doing we establish other gods before you.

Forgive us Father for we have sinned. Help us to walk in your Spirit and by faith in Jesus Christ. We believe, help our unbelief. Amen.

Hymn of Confession - God, Be Merciful to Me

Words: Richard Redhead.

Music: Christopher Miner.

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1. God, be merciful to me;
On Thy grace I rest my plea
Plenteous in compassion Thou,
Blot out my transgressions now;
Wash me, make me pure within;
Cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin.

2. My transgressions I confess;
Grief and guilt my soul oppress.
I have sinned against Thy grace,
And provoked Thee to Thy face.
I confess Thy judgment just;
Speechless, I Thy mercy trust.

3. I am evil, born in sin;
Thou desirest truth within.
Thou alone my Savior art,
Teach Thy wisdom to my heart;
Make me pure, Thy grace bestow,
Wash me whiter than the snow.

4. Broken, humbled to the dust
By Thy wrath and judgment just,
Let my contrite heart rejoice,
And in gladness hear Thy voice;
From my sins O hide Thy face,
Blot them out in boundless grace.

5. Gracious God, my heart renew,
Make my spirit right and true.
Cast me not away from Thee,
Let Thy Spirit dwell in me;
Thy salvation's joy impart,
Steadfast make my willing heart.

Assurance of Pardon - Galatians 3.13-14

[13] Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—[14] so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. (ESV)

Exhortation to Holiness - Galatians 5.1

[1] For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. (ESV)

Hymn of Response - Comfort, Comfort Now My People

Words by Johannes Olearius (1671)

Music by Lance Johnston & Treva Blomquist

1. “Comfort, Comfort now my people; speak of peace!” so says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.

2. For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance since the kingdom now is here
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!

3. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Means of Grace

Pastoral Prayer

Scripture Reading - [Galatians 3.1-18](#)

Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Sermon

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done in 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, the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon - Genesis 12, 15, 17

The Abrahamic Covenant

Lord's Supper

Communion Hymn - We Will Feast In the House of Zion

By Sandra McCracken, Joshua Moore

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*(Chorus) We will feast in the house of Zion. We will sing with our hearts restored.
“He has done great things,” we will say together.
We will feast, and weep no more.*

1. We will not be burned by the fire; He is the Lord our God.
We are not consumed by the flood — upheld, protected, gathered up.

(Chorus)

2. In the dark of night before the dawn, my soul be not afraid;
For the promised morning, Oh how long! O God of Jacob, be my strength!

(Chorus)

3. Every vow we’ve broken and betrayed, You are the faithful One;
And from the garden to the grave, bind us together, bring shalom.

(Chorus x2)

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.

Response

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving - Poor Wayfaring Stranger

1. I am a poor wayfaring stranger
 Traveling through this world of woe,
 But there's no sickness, toil, or danger
 In that bright land to which I go.

*(Chorus) I'm going there to meet my Savior,
 Dwell with him and never roam.
 I'm only going over Jordan.
 I'm only going over home.*

2. I know dark clouds will gather 'round me,
 I know my way will be rough and steep,
 But beautiful fields lie just before me
 Where God's redeemed their vigil keep.

(Chorus)

3. I'll soon be free of earthly trials,
 My body rest in the old church yard,
 I'll drop this cross of self-denial
 And I'll go singing home to God.

(Chorus)

Benediction - Galatians 6.18

[18] The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen. (ESV)

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