

## WORSHIP OF THE LIVING GOD

November 29, 2020

### Gathering to Worship

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ben Phillips, *Pastor of Ministries*

The Song of Ascent

*God's people sang together as they gathered and traveled together up to Jerusalem to worship God.*

### Congregation

*Emmanuel*

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, His name is called Emmanuel;  
God with us, revealed in us; His name is called Emmanuel.

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### Adoration of God

**Call to Worship:** Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimsoned garments from Bozrah, he who is splendid in his apparel, marching in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save." .... He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Isaiah 63.1; Revelation 22.20

### Quieting of Hearts, Confession of Sin and Invocation

#### Declaration of Truth: (Unison)

*The Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic\* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*This creed traditionally dates back to the early 2nd century.*

*The word "catholic" means "universal", meaning the one true church made up of all believers in Jesus Christ from every tribe, language, people and nation.*

*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.

*The Gloria Patri's first line was sung in the church as early as the 2nd century to affirm that God is Triune. The second line was added in the 4th century to emphasize the eternal Deity of Jesus, refuting the Arian heresy that Jesus was not eternally God.*

### **Hymn of Praise**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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 earth thou art;  
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see thee Day-spring 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!"

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 ever-lasting wonder: Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born thy people to deliver, Born a child, and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us for ever, 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 glo-rious throne.

### **CMPC Mission and Family Life**

#### **Mission Moment**

Ana Oropeza  
Internship, Spain, *Serge*

Brian & Megan Moore  
Berlin, Germany, *Mission to the World*

#### **The Sacrament of Covenant Baptism**

Given to Emma Marie Moore, the daughter of Brian and Megan;  
the granddaughter of Marty & Susan Moore and Al & Tracy Roth

#### **Pastoral Prayer**

## **Our Gifts to God**

### **The Gift of Music**

#### **Receiving God's Tithes and Our Offering**

##### *The 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 Thanksgiving**

##### **Hymn of Testimony**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: *Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel*  
*Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe.

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave.

O come, thou Dayspring from on high And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, thou Key of David, come And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

#### **Proclaiming the Word of God**

##### **Reading of God's Word**

Genesis 15

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue<sup>[a]</sup> childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." <sup>4</sup> And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup> And he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to

him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. <sup>14</sup> But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. <sup>15</sup> As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. <sup>16</sup> And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete." <sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give<sup>[c]</sup> this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, <sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, <sup>20</sup> the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, <sup>21</sup> the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."

### **Prayer of Illumination**

#### **Sermon**

*A Midwinter Night's Dream*

Pastor John

Series: *Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith—Genesis 12-25*

#### **Our Response**

#### **Prayer of Application**

#### **Hymn of Response**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior Was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's power When we were gone astray;

Refrain: *O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father, A blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds Brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born The son of God by name.

"Fear not then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright,  
This day is born a Savior Of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in him From Satan's pow'r and might."

#### **The Benediction and Threefold Amen**



**Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian, PCA**  
**cmpca.org**  
**CMPC Sermon Notes for November 22, 2020**

- **Series:** *Abraham & Sarah: Walking By Faith- Genesis 12-25*
- **Message:** *A Midwinter Night's Dream*
- **Text:** Genesis 15

**Affirmation of the Promise, 7**

- Why did God give them the land promise?
  - A future home for the people of God
    - Heaven
    - New heavens and the new earth
  - How do we know heaven is real?
- Abraham and Sarah believe the promise of a child- and they will see him
  - They will never “see” the possession of the land
  - Not a question of doubt- a question of confirmation, 8

**A Very Strange Answer (to us), 9**

- A list of animals to bring
  - Mature- prime- the best of his flocks
- Abraham knows what to do, 10
  - The covenant ceremony is very familiar to him, cf. verse 18
    - The word “make” is the word “cut”
      - Covenants made on a blood basis
    - When two participants made an agreement, if they were equal, they would both walk between the animal parts in a figure 8; if one was a Suzerain Lord who imposed this covenant on a lesser party, only the lesser person would walk through the animals
  - “I will do my part, or will die’ (cf. cross my heart and hope to die)
  - Abraham- wondering how this works with God
- Waiting, 11
- Keep vultures away

**The Darkness, 12**

- Future
- Descendants, 13-14
  - Will become slave- 400 years!
  - God will then intervene (the Exodus)
- Abraham will die, 15
- Why the delay? 16
  - God is giving the Canaanites an opportunity to repent
    - Cf. II Peter 3.9
      - But God does not wait forever
- The struggles of life, Romans 8.38-39

## **How Can Abraham Know, 17**

- The smoking fire pot and flaming torch
  - How did God guide the Israelites through the wilderness?
  - What about Mt. Sinai when the Law was given?
  - Temple: lamp and incense cloud
- What passes through the animals?
  - Not Abraham! God's presence did!
  - God guarantees the covenant
- God concealed Jesus' identity at Bethlehem
- The darkness at the cross
- Jesus came because Abraham/we failed to keep the covenant
  - Jesus rose from the dead- guaranteeing our eternity
- We claim God's promises by faith

## ***So What About Us?***

- God's Promises
- His intervention
  - Bethlehem/Golgotha/Right Hand
  - Second Coming
- God's presence passed through
  - Jesus came...
  - Coming again