

3. 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

4. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks,
draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord: After a year of changes and challenges, we are tempted to be pessimistic about the future. Help us to understand that the future, whatever it may bring, is in Your hands. With Your help, we can anticipate that in the future we will be loved and protected by You as we have been in the past. We will walk in Your spirit and Your light. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING *1 Samuel 7:2-17*
Liturgist: The Word of God for God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor Lisa Flory

DOXOLOGY *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*
All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to earth,
begin and never cease, begin and never cease. Amen

No. 236 Stanza 6

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

God is the eternal rock
From year's beginning to its end
God is faithful
In each day God is present
In each action God comes close
Through all eternity
God is trustworthy
Yesterday, today and forever
Sustaining, enlivening, making all things new
God is the eternal rock.

by Christine Sine

HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

No. 240

Verse 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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 2

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th'incarnate Deity
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Verse 3

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that we no more may die
Born to raise us from the earth
Born to give us second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

MESSAGE

God's Milestones

Pastor Lisa Flory

HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

No. 400

Verse 1

Come Thou fount of ev'ry blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Verse 2

Here I raise mine Ebenezer
Hither by Thy help I'm come
And I hope by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wand'ring from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Verse 3

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let Thy grace Lord like a fetter
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee
Prone to wander Lord I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart Lord take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Confession: *A New Beginning* posted on "Liturgy Alive"

Leader: For all the things we have done wrong in the past
against God and against people,

we now ask the Lord and one another to forgive us.

(PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, yours are the seasons and the ages.

Give us a new heart and a new spirit:

Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Jesus Christ, you are the beginning and the end
of all that is, including our lives.

Make a new beginning with all of us:

Christ, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you breathe your Spirit on all creation.

Make our old world new again:

Lord, have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Have mercy on us, Lord,

and let your forgiveness and love

come down on us and flow through us day after day. Lead us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 238

Verse 1

Angels we have heard on high

Sweetly singing o'er the plains

And the mountains in reply

Echoing their joyous strains

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Verse 2

Shepherds why this jubilee

Why your joyous strains prolong

What the gladsome tidings be

Which inspire your heav'nly song

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Verse 3

Come to Bethlehem and see

Christ whose birth the angels sing

Come adore on bended knee

Christ the Lord the newborn King

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Verse 4

See Him in a manger laid

Whom the choirs of angels praise

Mary Joseph lend your aid

While our hearts in love we raise

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Glo-----ria, In excelsis Deo

Commission and Benediction

by Rev. Nora Vedress

Pastor: So now we leave this space of worship

And while so much of the road ahead is uncertain,

the path constantly changing,

we know some things that are as solid and sure

as the ground beneath our feet,

and the sky above our heads.

**People: We know God is love.
We know Christ's light endures.
We know the Holy Spirit is there,
found in the space between all things,
closer to us than our next breath,
binding us to each other,
until we meet we again,**

Pastor: Go in peace.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Robert Lau

Sermon Outline:

GOD MILESTONES

1 Samuel 7:2-17 - Pastor Lisa Flory

2020 has been a year of many “grim milestones” that has left many of us feeling discouraged and weary. How can we reflect on this past year through a lens of faith, and flip “grim milestones” into God Milestones? How can we look ahead to the new year with hope and expectation, trusting God to lead us through whatever lies ahead?

1. Reflect on examples of people of faith marking God Milestones in scripture:

*The Exodus (Exodus 13, 14 and 15)

*Jacob wrestling with God (Genesis 32: 22-32)

*Joshua's victory over the city of Ai (Joshua 8:28-29)

*Israel's victory, under Samuel's leadership, over the Philistines (1 Samuel 7:2-17)

2. Consider our own battles, challenges, and trials, through a lens of faith, and turn these challenges over to God in an attitude of surrender and trust. Allow Him to fight our battles!

3. Acknowledge the ways that God has brought us through these challenges; find ways to mark God's victories, to celebrate our God Milestones!

As we flip the calendar to 2021, let us also flip the phrase “grim milestone” to God Milestones, confident that the God who has brought us this far will safely lead us home.

Calendar for Week of 12/27/20

SUNDAY

8:30 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]

9:45 - Contemporary [on the Web]

9:45 - Sunday School [Zoom]

11:00 - Traditional Worship [on the Web]

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

7:00 am - Prayer & Sacrament

7:00 pm—Celebrate Recovery (In person January 6th)

(contact Jason jgillhoolley@gmail.com

or Andrea agillhoolley717@gmail.com)

THURSDAY *New Years Eve*

5:00 - Contemporary Worship Design Team

5:30 - Traditional Worship Design Team

6:30-8:30 - Young Adult Group [zoom]

FRIDAY

Welcome 2021!!

SATURDAY

7:00—Men's sm grp [pavilion/lounge]

9:00 - Contemporary Worship Rehearsal

6:00 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]

SUNDAY

8:30 - Drive In Worship [Parking Lot]

9:45 - Contemporary live stream on Web

9:45 - Sunday School [zoom]

11:00 - Traditional Worship on Web

6-8 - Youth Night [zoom]

Service Participants:

Rev. Lisa Flory, Pastor of Equipping Ministries

Gary Zelinske, Liturgist

Michael Roberts, Video

Phyllis Conrad, Organist

Liturgy Credits

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- *O Come All Ye Faithful*; Words: John F. Wade, ca 1743; translated by Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others; Music: John F. Wade, ca 1743; Harmony: Collections of Motetts or Antiphons, 1792.
- *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*; Words: Nahum Tate; Music: *Harmonia Sacra*, 1812; arr. G.F. Handel, 1728.

- *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*; Words: Charles Wesley 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840, arr. William H. Cummings 1856.
- *Angels We Have Heard on High*; Words: Traditional French Carol; Music: French carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937; Harmonized Austin Lovelace 1964.

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Thank you for worshipping with us!