

COUNTRYSIDE TRINITY CHURCH December 29, 2024



Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Choir Introit

Call to Worship-Responsive:

Liturgist: Praise the Lord, all of creation!

All: God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Liturgist: In sun and moon and shining stars,

All: God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Liturgist: In sea creatures, land beasts, and flying birds,

All: God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Liturgist: From young to old, from princes to peasants,

All: God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Liturgist: Raise up your horns, lift up your voice,

All: for God is exalted in heaven and earth! Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer:

God of growth and maturation,
we remember that in Jesus Christ
you modeled what it means to be fully human.
Thank you for the unwritten years of Jesus' life—
the growth that happened in private,
the lessons learned in secret,
the burgeoning favor and hidden treasure.
Grant us your grace in this time of worship.
Help us welcome and receive the gift of slow growth,
that we might be formed in your likeness. **Amen.**

* Opening Hymn

"Praise the Lord God's Glories Show" #33 GTG

Congregation

Liturgist, Kathy Loviska

Noah Davis

Congregation

Liturgist

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* Call to Confession

Liturgist

In faith and in hope,
we trust that God is merciful and just
and receives our prayers with grace.
In humility and with meekness,
let us confess our sin together.

* Prayer of Confession

Congregation

**Holy God,
though we are in awe of the dawn
of your light in Jesus Christ,
we remain self-centered
and cling to the sin of the world.
We celebrate the birth of our savior,
yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him.
We are called to pursue justice,
love kindness, and walk humbly with you;
yet we are content to seek our own comfort
and conveniently ignore the cries
of those in need.
By the light of the Christ child,
lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness,
as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation.**

* Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist

We are God's beloved children,
The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. **Amen.**

*Responding to Grace:

"Glory Be To the Father" #581 GTG

Congregation

Time With Young Disciples

Congregation



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Prayer for Illumination

O God, through your mighty acts
we receive grace upon grace.
From your fullness,
feed us with your life-giving Word,
that our lives, like bread,
may feed a hungry world. **Amen.**

First Scripture Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks Be to God.**


Special Music:

Dan Groom

Second Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

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When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, He will be called a Nazorean.'

<u>Sermon</u>	"Don't Be a Stranger"	Rev. Nathaniel Asperger
<u>Music Meditation:</u>		Noah Davis
* <u>Sermon Hymn</u>	<i>"For the Beauty of the Earth" #14</i> GTG	Congregation
<u>Joys and Concerns</u>		
<u>Call to Offering</u>		Rev. Nathaniel Asperger
<u>Prayer of Dedication</u>		Rev. Nathaniel Asperger
* <u>Doxology</u>		Congregation
* <u>Closing Hymn</u>	<i>"When the Morning Stars Together" #689</i> GTG Sung to the Tune of <i>"Hymn of Promise" #250</i> GTG	Congregation
* <u>Charge, Benediction</u>		Rev. Nathaniel Asperger
* <u>Congregational Postlude:</u>	<i>"Go Tell It On The Mountain"</i>	Noah Davis

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CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show 33 (Psalm 150)

1 Praise the Lord! God's glo - ries show,
2 Earth to heaven ex - alt the strain, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Strings and voic - es, hands and hearts,

saints with - in God's courts be - low,
Send it, heaven, to earth a - gain, Al - le - lu - ia!
in the con - cert, bear your parts,

an - gels round the throne a - bove,
Age to age, God's mer - cies trace, Al - le - lu - ia!
All that breathes, your Lord a - dore,

all who see and share God's love.
Praise God's prov - i - dence and grace! Al - le - lu - ia!
sing - ing praise for - ev - er - more,

Originally cast as two eight-line stanzas, this 19th-century paraphrase of Psalm 150 was slightly shortened when it was set to the present tune with recurring Alleluias. The Welsh tune is actually older than the text and bears a name meaning "the church of St. Mary."

TEXT: Henry Francis Lyte, 1834; rev. 1836, alt.
MUSIC: Robert Williams, 1817; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

LLANFAIR
7.7.7.7 with alleluias

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SERVICE MUSIC

Glory Be to the Father 581

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the

Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -

gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be,

world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

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TEXT: Trad. liturgical text
MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

GLORIA PATRI (Greatorex)

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CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

For the Beauty of the Earth 14

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the glo-ry of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de-light,
 4 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 5 For thy-self, best gift di-vine to the world so free-ly given;

for the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies:
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:
 for the mys-tic har-mo-ny link-ing sense to sound and sight:
 friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild:
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

Refrain

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

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In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

TEXT: Folliot Sandford Pierpoint, 1864, alt.
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher, 1838; abr. William Henry Monk, 1861; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

DIX
7.7.7.7.7.7

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DEDICATION AND STEWARDSHIP

689 When the Morning Stars Together

1 When the morn-ing stars to - geth - er their Cre - a - tor's
 2 When in syn - a - gogue and tem - ple voic - es raised the
 3 Voice and in - stru - ment in un - ion through the a - ges
 4 Lord, we bring our gift of mu - sic; touch our lips and

glo - ry sang, and the an - gel host all shout-ed till with
 psalm-ists' songs, of - fering up the ad - o - ra - tion which a -
 spoke your praise. Plain-song, tune - ful hymns, and an - thems told your
 fire our hearts. Teach our minds and train our sens - es; fit us

joy the heav - ens rang, then your wis - dom and your great-ness
 lone to you be - longs; when the sing - ers, trum - pets, cym - bals
 faith - ful, gra - cious ways. Choir and or - ches - tra and or - gan
 for these sa - cred arts. Then with skill and con - se - cra - tion

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Opening with imagery from Job 38:7, this text celebrates the role of music in worship from earliest times to the present. It is set to a German tune that may have originated as a folk melody. The tune name, German for "white flags," comes from one of the early texts set to it.

TEXT: Albert F. Bayly, 1966, alt.
 MUSIC: German melody; harm. Tochter Zion, 1741
 Text © 1966 Oxford University Press

WEISSE FLAGGEN
 8.7.8.7.D



**COUNTRYSIDE
TRINITY CHURCH
December 29, 2024**

**GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN, OVER THE
HILLS AND EVERYWHERE; GO TELL IT ON
THE MOUNTAIN, THAT JESUS CHRIST IS
BORN!**

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