



**Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church
Online Worship Service
Sunday, December 27, 2020
Gathering Around the Word**

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Jody Andrade

Introit

"Born is the King of Israel"
by Sandra Eithun

PHPC Handbell Ensemble

Call to Worship

Isaac Assan-Mensah

One: Here on the heels of Christmas,

All: We speak of love.

One: We speak of joy.

All: We speak of candle light and fireside.

One: We speak of dreams being fulfilled.

All: We speak of "glorias" and angel choruses.

One: We speak the words, "Do not be afraid."

All: Here on the heels of Christmas,

We are called to speak, for the world needs a light.


One: A light shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not overcome it.

All: Let us worship and listen. Then, let us speak. Amen.

Hymn 136

"Go Tell It on the Mountain"

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

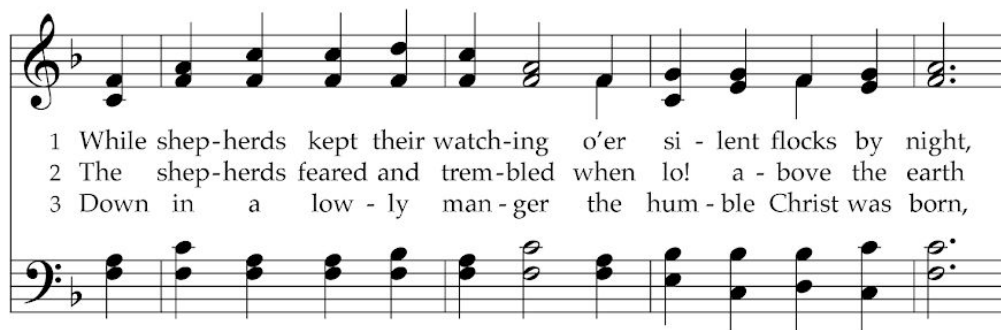
Refrain 



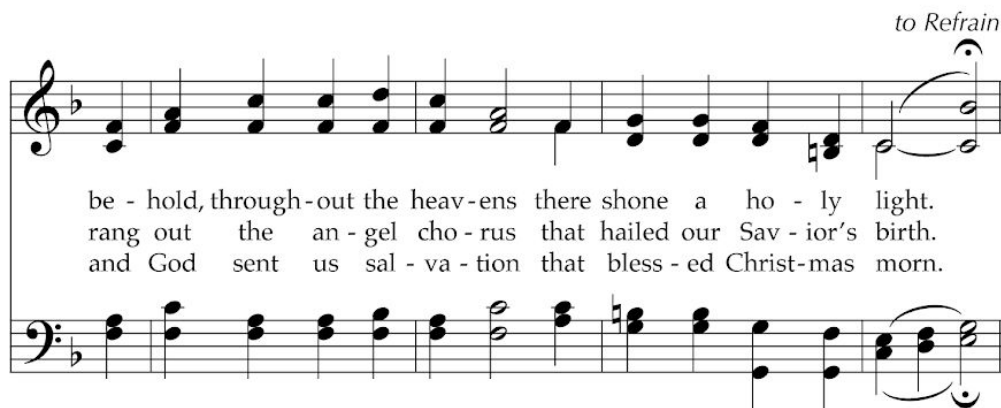
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Call to Confession

Vanessa Cartier-Craddock

Prayer of Confession

God of today and tomorrow, we know that your fingerprints are all over this world.

And we know that those who dream cannot keep silent.

So today we pray, give us eyes to see you.

Give us courage to trust you, and give us lips to speak of you in our midst.

Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Passing of the Peace

Vanessa

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Word Read and Proclaimed

Children's Sermon

The Rev. Jennie Sankey

Prayer for Illumination

"Open the Eyes of My Heart"

Pam and Ralph Griffin

452 Open the Eyes of My Heart

D A/C#
O-pen the eyes of my heart, Lord. O-pen the eyes of my heart;

G/B G D
I want to see you; I want to see you;

1 2
Dsus D A Bm
to see you high and lift - ed up,

G A
shin-ing in the light of your glo - ry. Pour out your

Bm Em7 D/E A
pow-er and love as we sing "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly."

D A/C#
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.

Bm G Em/D D
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, I want to see you.

First Scripture Reading

Isaiah 61: 10 - 62: 3

Jody

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for God has clothed me with the garments of salvation, God has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and

for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

Jody

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took [Jesus] in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When [Mary and Joseph] had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

"Those Who Dream...the Many Who Will Not Keep Silent"

Jody

Responding to the Word

Anthem

"Sing Gloria"
by Katherine Davis

PHPC Chancel Choir

Affirmation of Faith

From the "Theological Declaration of Barmen"

Mary Don King

As the Church of pardoned sinners, [the Church] has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that [the Church] is solely [Jesus Christ's] property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from [Christ's] comfort and from his direction in the expectation of his appearance.

Silent Prayer, Pastoral Prayer

The Rev. Katie Day

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to Offering

Jody

- To give
- return to www.pleasanthillpc.org and click on the Giving tab, or
 - text givePHPC to 73256, or
 - mail your offering to the church: 3700 Pleasant Hill Road Duluth, GA 30096.

Prayer of Dedication

Jody

Hymn 148

"Jesus and Mary Came to the Temple"

Charge and Benediction

Jody

Postlude

"The Shepherds"

Hyoun Joo Song

Some of this morning's prayers are adapted from

Those Who Dream by Sarah Are

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