



December 27, 2020

GATHERING		Robert Schilling
GREETING		Darren Cushman Wood
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Sunil Kotian
PRELUDE	<i>Partita on "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (Hymn 720) 1. Allegro Assai</i>	J. Koetsier Thomas Schilling, trombone Robert Schilling, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is born, give him glory!

People: Christ has come down from heaven, receive him!

Christ is now on earth, exalt him!

Leader: O you earth, sing to the Lord!

People: O you nations, praise him in joy for he has been glorified!

OPENING HYMN #245

The First Noel

***The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

***And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]***

***Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon the knee,
and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense. [Refrain]***

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jim McDonald

**As you led Simeon and Anna to embrace the infant Jesus,
guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light
that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he 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.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

DUET from *Partita* on "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"
3. *Vivace*

J. Koetsier
Thomas and Robert Schilling

CANTICLE OF PRAISE Psalm 148

Leader: Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the skies.

Praise the Lord high above the earth.

People: Praise God, all you angels.

Praise God, all you armies of heaven.

Leader: Praise the Lord, sun and moon.

Praise the Lord, all you shining stars.

**People: Praise God, highest heavens
and you waters above the sky.**

Leader: Let them praise the Lord,
because they were created by God's command
who put them in place forever and ever;
and made a law that will never change.

**People: Praise the Lord from the earth,
you large sea animals and all the oceans,
lightning and hail, snow and mist,
and stormy winds that obey God,**

Leader: mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle,
crawling animals and birds,

**People: kings of the earth and all nations,
princes and all rulers of the earth,
young men and women,
old people and children.**

Leader: Praise the Lord,
who alone is great,

and more wonderful than heaven and earth
and has given the people a ruler.

**People: The Lord should be praised by all who belong to him;
The Lord should be praised by the Israelites, the people closest to God's heart.
Hallelujah!**

HYMN OF PRAYER #242

Love Came Down at Christmas

***Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.***

***Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, Love divine;
worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?***

***Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine;
love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sunil Kotian

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

DOXOLOGY

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 turtle-doves 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 him 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 for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped 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 they 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 favour of God was upon him.

Leader: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

New Times for the Old Timers

Darren Cushman Wood

HYMN OF DEDICATION #251

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

**Refrain: *Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.***

***While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light. [Refrain]***

***The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. [Refrain]***

***Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]***

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Leader: May the Christ who by his Incarnation
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with sweetness of inward peace and goodwill.

People: Alleluia.

Leader: The blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go forth in peace and joy.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

*from Partita on "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"
5. Andante Maestoso*

J. Koetsier

The flowers on the altar today are given for the glory of God and in thanksgiving for those who have contributed to making our live stream services possible this year.

This week's worship leaders:

Darren Cushman Wood, *Senior Pastor*

Sunil Kotian, *Pastoral Intern*

Jim McDonald, *Liturgist*

John Hague & Jack Haefling, *Audio Visual*

Robert Schilling, *Guest Organist, North's Minister of Worship
and the Arts, 1961-2002*

Thomas Schilling, *Trombone*

The Warbintons, *Song Leaders*