

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

100 Pitney Rd // Absecon, NJ 08201

609.641.1265 // abseconumc.com
abseconumc@comcast.net

The Reverend Christopher L. Miller, Pastor

miller.chris@comcast.net // (609) 277-7639

**Priscilla Cunningham,
Director of Music and Organist**



Come and Worship the Lord

December 27, 2020

Prelude

Little Baby Jesus

Blaine Allen

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Let's deck the halls with promises fulfilled!

People: God has given us hope and peace.

Leader: God has given us joy and love.

People: God has given us Jesus.

Leader: Through Jesus we have renewed purpose

People: Let's deck the halls with promises fulfilled!

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2. Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear; sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, you have given us hope when we despair, peace during times of chaos and unrest, joy in places of sorrow and despair, and love in the midst of hate. These generous gifts have changed us and inspired us to live fully as your people in this world. Help us to cling to all you have offered us and offer it to others as well! Amen.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Scripture 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 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 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 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 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 favor of God was upon him.

Message

Deck the Halls with Promises Fulfilled

Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

(all verses)

Refrain

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

Fine

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,

D.C.

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

Offering Conversation

Special Music – Ray Glanville

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

(continued on next page)

with th'an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Benediction

Postlude

Joy to the World