

Come, Let Us Worship

After the time of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem wise men came from the East and asked, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him."

Think of what it means to worship. It is to prostrate oneself before another, in spirit as well as in body, and to declare one's dependence upon him. Imagine this scene—the baby Jesus is in the arms of his mother, and the wise men, like the shepherds before them, bow low before him. Is it right that they do so? Is it perhaps strange that these men of wisdom and many years' experience should be willing to prostrate themselves before a helpless babe? This Jesus must have been an unusual person!

Unusual indeed! It was he whom the prophets had seen. Looking down the corridors of time they saw the shadowy outline of the Messiah who was to come. Hundreds of years before the birth of Christ the prophet Isaiah wrote, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (7:14). In Matthew we read that the birth of Jesus was the event of which this prophecy spoke. Of the angels' visit to Joseph announcing the birth of Christ we read, "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us" (1:22,23).

The birth of Jesus was the greatest revelation of all time, the appearance of God in human flesh—God with us. That for which all the ages waited happened on this night in Bethlehem. The hopes and fears of all the world met in this little child in a stable. Now was the time of peace and joy. The Savior had come. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins."

The joyous cry of Christmas is this: "The Savior is come!" Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

*And...they saw
the young child
with Mary his
mother, and fell
down,
and worshipped
him.*

Matthew 2:11

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor! We would like to keep in touch with you. Please use the QR code to tell us about yourself.



MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 214 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 110 *“Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah”*

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD'S ASSURANCE

The Law of God Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

Lord God, Eternal and Almighty Father: We acknowledge before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in guilt and in corruption, prone to do evil, unable of our own power to do good. Because of our sin, we endlessly violate your holy commandments. But, O Lord, we repent and turn away from all our offenses. We condemn ourselves and our evil ways, asking you, through your grace, to relieve our distress. Remind us of your compassion, O Father of mercies. Remind us of all the benefits that are ours in Your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. We also ask that you grant us daily increase of the grace of your Holy Spirit, and produce in us the fruits of holiness and of righteousness, which are pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Matthew 11:28-29 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 194 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 210 *“Silent Night! Holy Night!”*

Sermon Text Isaiah 42:10-17, pew Bible p. 602

Sermon SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG

*Hymn of Response # 203 *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord) # 734

*The Lord's Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. We are studying the book of Deuteronomy. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Wednesday, December 24, 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please join us at the church for a cookie exchange and a Christmas hymn sing. For those who would like to, please bring your instruments!