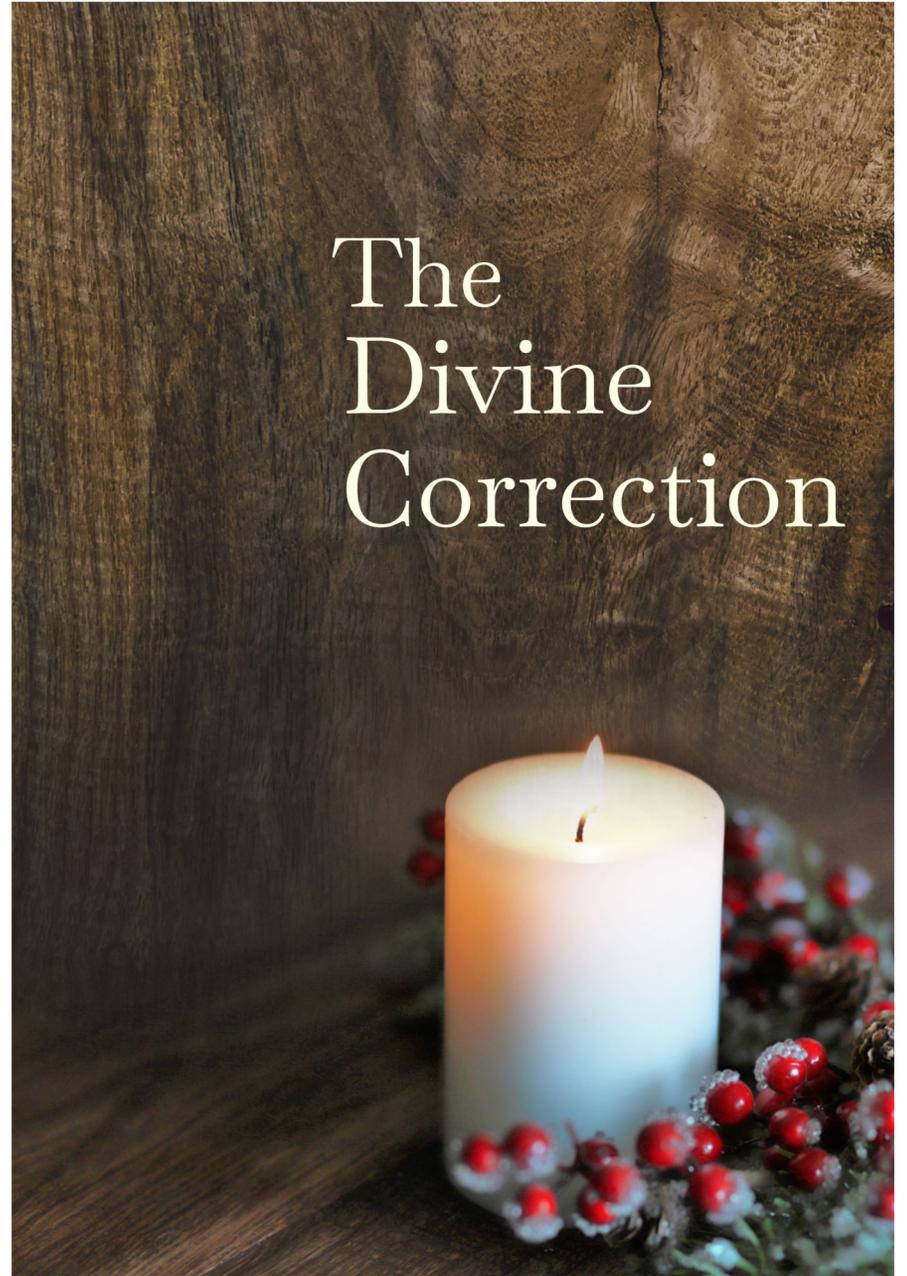


The Divine Correction



SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 2022

4:00 PM

Order of Service

Prelude

Prayer

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-20

Hymn #223 *The First Noel*

Hymn #231 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Hymn #236 *Silent Night*

Hymn #230 *What Child is This?*

Scripture Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Hymn #238 *Hark! The Herald Angel Sings*

Hymn #224 *Joy to the World*

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 9:1-7

Pastoral Reflection: *The Divine Correction of Christmas*

Christmas Blessing

And heav'n and nature sing
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, and wonders, of His love

JEREMIAH 9:1-7

Oh that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! ² Oh that I had in the desert a travelers' lodging place, that I might leave my people and go away from them! For they are all adulterers, a company of treacherous men.

³ They bend their tongue like a bow; falsehood and not truth has grown strong in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know me, declares the LORD.

⁴ Let everyone beware of his neighbor, and put no trust in any brother, for every brother is a deceiver, and every neighbor goes about as a slanderer. ⁵ Everyone deceives his neighbor, and no one speaks the truth; they have taught their tongue to speak lies; they weary themselves committing iniquity. ⁶ Heaping oppression upon oppression, and deceit upon deceit, they refuse to know me, declares the LORD.

⁷ Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, I will refine them and test them, for what else can I do, because of my people?"

PASTORAL REFLECTION

The Divine Correction

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

HYMN #238 HARK! THE HERALD ANGEL SINGS

Hark! The herald angel sings
“Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With th’angelic host proclaim
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angel sings,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Christ by highest heav’n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time, behold Him come
Offspring of the virgin’s womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail th’incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angel sings,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav’n-born Prince of peace
Hail the Sun of righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angel sings,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

HYMN #224 JOY TO THE WORLD!

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heav’n and nature sing

A Prayer for Christmas Eve

You alone, O Lord, are God. Besides you, there is no other.

In infinite, perfect wisdom and eternal, sovereign will, you have commanded that we believe in Jesus, the Son of God, the sent One, the One whose coming among us we celebrate on this holy eve.

There is no other refuge to which we would flee the turmoil and troubles of sin and life in a fallen world than to this Child. The One promised. The One provided. The One proved.

There is no other fountain that washes clean from sin and guilt than the fountain of blood and grace that flows from the exalted throne of the One lifted high on a cross, having once been laid low in a manger and a grave.

There is no foundation on which we would build our present lives and future hope. There is no other fullness with which we would have our empty souls and minds filled than the grace and truth with which Jesus was filled when He came to dwell among us as one of us.

On this Christmas Eve, as we gather and sing and listen and believe, in your love and mercy, and for your glory, O Lord, grant to us that for which we plead:

May we be equally convinced of the guilt and pollution of sin, feel the personal need for this Savior and Prince Whom You sent, Who has come and is coming again. May we implore of Christ repentance as well as forgiveness. May we love holiness and be pure in heart. May we have the mind of Jesus, love as He loves, and tread in His steps.

Help us, O Lord, in this season and every season. Guide our affections and loves with holy discretion and biblical wisdom and show the world in our will, our ways, and our worship the likeness of Jesus, the Word of God, Who has come. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Luke 2:1-20 (ESV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He is such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh
Come, peasant, king to own Him
The King of kings salvation brings
Let loving hearts enthrone Him

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring Him laud
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Galatians 4:4-7 (ESV)

⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

HYMN #236 SILENT NIGHT

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heav’n afar
Heav’nly hosts sing, “Alleluia!”
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord at Thy birth!

HYMN #230 What Child Is This?

What Child is this who laid to rest
On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

HYMN #223 THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord
Who hath made heav’n and earth of naught
And with His blood mankind hath bought.

HYMN #231 O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

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

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered