

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR JANUARY 10, 2021

GATHERING MUSIC

- Dana Moody

THE MORNING WELCOME

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

CENTERING PRAYER (responsively)

L: We gather wondering, 'Where will we find the Babe born in Bethlehem?'

P: We will find the Babe in the laughter of children, in the wisdom of grandparents.

L: We gather asking, 'Where will we find the Child of Christmas?'

P: We will find the Child where the needy are gifted with hope, where the oppressed are set free.

L: We gather wanting to know, 'Where will we find the Christ who has come for us?'

P: We will find our Hope where fear is overwhelmed by grace,
where hatred is overwhelmed by love,
where all people are overwhelmed by joy.

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Thank You, Dear Jesus”

- Joyce Gaston, Tim Hazlett, Don Moody, Debbie Rippard, Jan Whitzel

AN EPIPHANY PRAYER (in unison)

- Monica Whitehurst

On Epiphany day,

we are still the people walking.

We are still people in the dark,

and the darkness looms large around us,

beset as we are by fear,

anxiety,

brutality,

violence,

loss —

a dozen alienations that we cannot manage.

We are — we could be — people of your light.

So we pray for the light of your glorious presence

as we wait for your appearing;

we pray for the light of your wondrous grace

as we exhaust our coping capacity;

we pray for your gift of newness that

will override our weariness;

we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust

in your good rule.

That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact

your rule through the demands of this day.

We submit our day to you and to your rule, with deep joy and high hope. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 1:1-31

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was barren, with no form of life; it was under a roaring ocean covered with darkness. But the Spirit of God was moving over the water.

³ God said, “I command light to shine!” And light started shining. ⁴ God looked at the light and saw that it was good. He separated light from darkness ⁵ and named the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came and then morning—that was the first day.

God said, “I command a dome to separate the water above it from the water below it.” And that’s what happened. God made the dome and named it “Sky.” Evening came, then morning – that was the second day.

God said, “I command the water under the sky to come together in one place, so there will be dry ground.” And that’s what happened. God named the dry ground “Land,” and he named the water “Ocean.” God looked at what he had done and saw that it was good.

God said, “I command the earth to produce all kinds of plants, including fruit trees and grain.” And that’s what happened. The earth produced all kinds of vegetation. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Evening came, then morning – that was the third day.

God said, “I command lights to appear in the sky and to separate day from night and to show the time for seasons, special days, and years. I command them to shine on the earth.” And that’s what happened. God made two powerful lights, the brighter one to rule the day and the other to rule the night. He also made the stars. Then God put these lights in the sky to shine on the earth, to rule day and night, and to separate light from darkness. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Evening came, then morning – that was the fourth day.

God said, “I command the ocean to be full of living creatures, and I command birds to fly above the earth.” So God made the giant sea monsters and all the living creatures that swim in the ocean. He also made every kind of bird. God looked at what he had done, and it was good. Then he gave the living creatures his blessing – he told the ocean creatures to increase and live everywhere in the ocean and the birds to increase everywhere on earth. Evening came, then morning – that was the fifth day.

God said, “I command the earth to give life to all kinds of tame animals, wild animals, and reptiles.” And that’s what happened. God made every one of them. Then he looked at what he had done, and it was good.

God said, “Now we will make humans, and they will be like us. We will let them rule the fish, the birds, and all other living creatures.”

So God created humans to be like himself; he made men and women. God gave them his blessing and said: Have a lot of children! Fill the earth with people and bring it under your control. Rule over the fish in the ocean, the birds in the sky, and every animal on the earth.

I have provided all kinds of fruit and grain for you to eat. And I have given the green plants as food for everything else that breathes, including animals, both wild and tame, and birds. And so it was.

God looked at what he had done. All of it was very good! Evening came, then morning – that was the sixth day.

SERMON

“Words Create Worlds”

- Dr. Tim Hazlett

MEDITATIVE HYMN

“We Three Kings”

[NOTE: If you are worshiping with us in-person please refrain from singing; humming or a time meditative silence is permissible. If you are at home on Facebook Live you may sing.]

1. We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
5. Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.
Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

CLOSING PRAYER (responsively)

- Monica Whitehurst

L: Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may the Spirit of God which filled John and Jesus, fill your hearts, souls and minds; may the power of God which upheld them, strengthen you for each day; and may the love of God which directed their every action be your guiding light and your shining star, both now and forevermore.

P: Amen.

POSTLUDE

- Dana Moody