

Leander Presbyterian Church
January 3, 2021
Second Sunday After Christmas

Prelude

'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
Arranged by Cindy Berry

Gathering & Call to Worship

from Isaiah 60

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Opening Prayer

Hymn of Praise

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

#141

Prayer of Confession

from Isaiah 59

See, the LORD's hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity. Your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness. No one brings suit justly; no one goes to law honestly. They rely on empty pleas; they speak lies, conceiving mischief and begetting iniquity.

The way of peace they do not know, and there is no justice in their paths. The roads, they have made crooked. No one who walks in them knows peace. Therefore, justice is far from us; and righteousness does not reach us.

We wait for light, and lo! There is darkness.

We wait for brightness, but we walk in gloom.

We look for salvation, but it is far from us.

For our transgressions before you are many, and our sins testify against us.

Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance. Truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil is despoiled.

The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene. So his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him.

He put on righteousness like a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head.

He will come to Zion as Redeemer, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression, says the LORD.

(Personal, Silent Prayer of Confession)

Come Unto Me, Ye Weary

Come unto Me, ye weary, And I will give you rest.
O blessed voice of Jesus, Which comes to hearts oppressed!
It tells of benediction, Of pardon, grace, and peace,
Of joy that hath no ending, Of love which cannot cease. Amen

The Church's One Foundation

The Church's one Foundation Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the word:
From heaven He came and sought her To be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.

Yet she on earth hath union With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won;
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly, On high may dwell with Thee. Amen

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

O Master, let me walk with Thee In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear The strain of toil, the fret of care. Amen

Pastor Robert McElwaine
Phyllis Draheim, Piano
Kathleen McElwaine, Videographer

Lila Aud, Piano and Flute, Music Coordinator
Joel Aud, Service Support

Video Production

Person Responsible	Role
Kathleen McElwaine	Video tape, editing, post production, audio, titles, Vimeo upload
Susan Janes	Communications, Service Order of Service
Gene Hinkle	Technical Support, Webmaster

Links: Website - <http://leanderpres.org>

Sermons - <http://leanderpres.org/sermonsworshipmusic.html>

Readings

Jeremiah 31: 1-22

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the

fruit. For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God." For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel. "See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord. Thus says the Lord: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. Thus says the Lord: Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears; for there is a reward for your work, says the Lord: they shall come back from the land of the enemy; there is hope for your future, says the Lord: your children shall come back to their own country.

Indeed I heard Ephraim pleading: "You disciplined me, and I took the discipline; I was like a calf untrained. Bring me back, let me come back, for you are the Lord my God. For after I had turned away I repented; and after I was discovered, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was dismayed because I bore the disgrace of my youth." Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him, I still remember him. Therefore I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the Lord. Set up road markers for yourself, make yourself guideposts; consider well the highway, the road by which you went. Return, O virgin Israel, return to these your cities. How long will you waver, O faithless daughter? For the Lord has created a new thing on the earth: a woman encompasses a man.

Psalm 147

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden; he casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner; but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

Ephesians 1: 1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

John 1: 1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Prayers

January 3, 2021



Emogene Champion**
Dave Beach & Family (Kim)
Dan Kilgore
Allen Striker (Sharon)
Karen Thompson** Family
Sue Ann Boren (Lila)

George Hyman (Patty)
Casie Gilbreath Ramaley Family (Kim)

Karen Hambrick**
Bobbie Caviness (Kim)
Pam Jordan (Linda H)
John & Rebecca McElroy (Lila)
Renee Peters**
Sharon Carline & Family
Lonnie Smith (Kathleen)
Dan Wise (Sue)

Texas & US Armed Forces

Local, State & Federal Government Leaders

Texas State Guard

** church Members

Joys & Announcements

Happy New Year!

Minute for Mission: Being A Good Steward

Bible Verse: Micah 6: 8

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with God? In Jesus' time, the steward was the manager of the household. The steward was not the owner of the assets, but a responsible administrator of the owner's property. We are all stewards of some possessions and influence. We either take care of the earth, or we pollute the earth. We either take care of our church, or our church will not prevail.

Hill Country Community Ministry - Check HCCM's website for information on how to make donations.

Birthdays

1/1	Kathy Howell	1/3	John Renfroe	1/17	Sharon Carline
1/22	Cliff Link	1/28	Carl Smith		

Calendar

Services and other church activities have been suspended until after the next Session Meeting.

Scriptures for January 19, 2020: **Genesis 1: 1-5, Psalm 29: 1-11, Acts 19: 1-7, Mark 1: 4-11**

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Susan Janes (H 512-258-5135); sjanes@sbcglobal.net - Newsletter & Bulletin