



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Online Order of Worship

First Sunday After Christmas Day

December 27th, 2020

— GATHERING —

Welcome

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Children’s Reading

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

Special Music

“Jesus Entered Egypt”

KING’S WESTON

Jesus entered Egypt fleeing Herod’s hand,
living as an alien in a foreign land.
Far from home and country with his family,
was there room and welcome for this refugee?

Jesus was a migrant living as a guest
with the friends and strangers who could offer rest.
Do we hold wealth lightly so that we can share
shelter with the homeless, and abundant care?

Jesus crosses borders with the wand’ring poor,
Searching for a refuge, for an open door.
Do our words and actions answer Jesus’ plea:
“Give the lowly welcome, and you welcome me?”

— THE WORD —

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Scripture

Matthew 2:13-23

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazorean.”

Homily

The Christmas Miracle

Rev. Barrett Abernethy

Hymn

“Go, Tell It On the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Refrain

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *(to refrain)*

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *(to refrain)*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *(to refrain)*

— **RESPONSE** —

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

The Lord's Prayer

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

— **SENDING** —

Special Music

“The First Nowell”
THE FIRST NOWELL
Ryan Sawyer, Marimba

Blessing

Rev. Barrett Abernethy