

¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.

John 1:16



Abington Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

10:00 a.m. Celebration Worship

Second Sunday of Christmas

ORDER OF WORSHIP
2nd Sunday of Christmas January 3, 2021

GATHERING

The people gather wherever they may in response to God's call, offering praise in words of scripture, prayer, and song. The people acknowledge their sinfulness and receive the good news of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP *A time for quiet preparation before worship*

Fill us with radiant joy as your word comes into our midst. Define and refine this new year, bringing light and peace. Strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, who reveals to us your will and way. Amen.

PRELUDE Improvisation on "Mary's Child"

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

*** CALL TO WORSHIP**

In Christ we are blessed, in Christ we are called
to live in the praise of his glorious grace!
In Christ we belong in the family, adopted
to live in the praise of his glorious grace!
In Christ the great mystery of God is revealed;
to live in the praise of his glorious grace!
In Christ we are called to be blameless and free,
to live in the praise of his glorious grace!

*** HYMN 108** Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Glorious God, at the beginning of this new year, we seek to have faith in Jesus Christ, and love towards your people, yet we are far from being without blemish. We do not fully avail ourselves of your wisdom. We have not made your purposes our own. Our love is not as inclusive as yours, and in so many ways, there is much room for growth. Give us clearer vision of all that you intend us to be, so that we might more clearly reflect the light of your glory.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, our God has poured out grace upon grace, freely, in great abundance upon us.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*** GLORIA HYMN 113** Angels We Have Heard on High GLORIA

*** THE PEACE OF CHRIST** *Greet one another with the sign of peace.*

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

WORD

God's Word is read and its message is proclaimed in scripture, music and interpretation.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:7-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN 123

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:10-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Grace Upon Grace

The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THANKSGIVING & SENDING

After the proclamation of God's Word, we respond with gratitude prepared to go into the world where we are called to live according to God's will.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy... we join our voices with the celestial choirs and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Sing ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might, —
Heav'n and earth your glo - ry show, Ho - san - na in the high - est,
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the heights!

You are holy, O God of majesty...we offer our very selves to you to be a living and holy sacrifice, dedicated to your service:

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again.**

Gracious God pour out your Holy Spirit...even as we pray as our Lord Jesus has taught us:

**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**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

*HYMN 158

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

MARY'S CHILD

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

Postlude on "Adeste Fidelis"

Eric Thiman

[*service hymns and some announcements follow*]

Worship Leaders:

Preacher: The Rev. Kirby Lawrence Hill

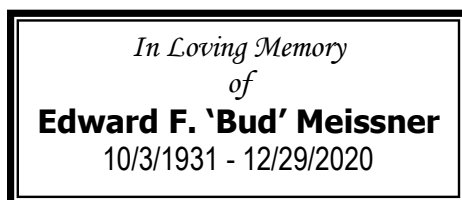
Liturgist: The Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass

Organ: Erik Meyer

In need of special prayers this week: Len Browna, Michael Kemp, Laura Lockhart, Sylvia Weed (mother of Kathryn Jablokow), Barbara LaNore (sister of Lynda Smyth), Bruce D. Meissner (son of Judy and Bud Meissner), Sylvia Jolly, MM Harris, Herb Harris, Gary Lynch (son of Doug Lynch), Chris Popescu (aunt of Joanne Bates), Marty Bell (cousin of Alice Price), Elizabeth Cole (granddaughter of Nancy Webb Cole), Doris Boerner, Helen Porter (mother of Joe Porter), Janet Wells (mother of Gwen Bihn), Suzy Paravla (daughter of Susan Davis), Linda Maisenhelder, Christine Kim (wife of Stephen Kim), Will Pompilli (son of Teresa Pompilli), Phyllis Frazier, Nick Cupo, Sr., Joanne Hawkins (mother of Nick Cupo), Wayne Gibbons, Jr., John & Carolyn Burrell (parents of Janet Gildner), Susan Arnhold (friend of Joanne and Jeff Bates), Kris and Erik Reidenbach (friends of Sally Adams), Linda Doyle.

Sympathy and prayers for the family of Edward F. 'Bud' Meissner, as they mourn his recent death.

For Pastoral Care: To notify the church of an illness, hospitalization, death, or to request prayer, contact a minister or call your Deacon or the Church Office at (215) 887-4530.



Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



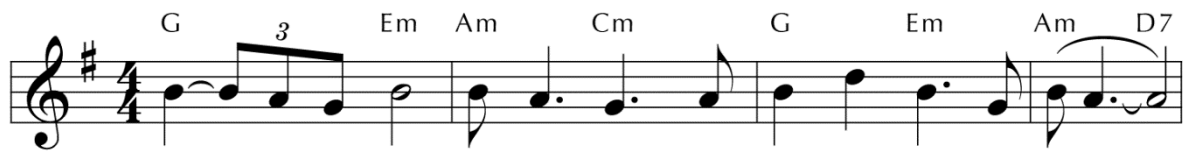
have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

Born in the Night, Mary's Child 158



1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;



com - ing in need, Mar - y's Child, born in a bor - rowed room.
Light of the world, Mar - y's Child, dawn on our dark - ened day.
yes, it is true, Mar - y's Child, shown on your cross of wood.
King of the earth, Mar - y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Carried by a blues-like tune, this text of clustered phrases centers on the core words "Mary's Child," initially linking images that suggest a Nativity hymn, but by the third stanza widening to the full arc of the Incarnation: birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, return.

TEXT: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964, alt.
MUSIC: Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972
Text and Music © 1964 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

MARY'S CHILD
7.6.7.6