
We Gather in God's Name

Meditation

“Beginning again is what it’s all about, picking up the scattered pieces where we let them fall, joining jagged day to day in hopes of calling them a year, a living, even a life, more or less. It doesn’t do to remember too much. Times like these can’t last, and cherishing only complicates the daily glimpse. Select perhaps a glimpse, a surprise, an open moment. Save it for that point along the way when it might save you. Meanwhile, have a happy, and we’ll hope to see you again next time around.

J. Barrie Shepherd

The Light of the Christ Candle Leads Us into God's Presence

Prelude

Welcome to Worship!

***Call to Worship**

Eternal God,

We come to you this day, as people blessed by your tender care.

Today, we gather to seek your presence and your grace,

That we might better understand how to follow the teachings and the life of your son Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

***Hymn #41** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

God's Forgiveness Is Made Real

Call to Confession

Our waiting is over! Christ is born! And although we do not fully understand the power of this moment for our lives, we know that we must kneel in confession and humility before this tiny babe. Together let us confess our brokenness.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, giver of new beginnings, we come to you today, confessing our need.

As we face this coming year, help us through each day.

As we leave the last year behind,

Help us look to you.

When we face birth or death, when we confront a time to plant or to uproot,

Help us put our faith in you.

When we see a time to tear down or to build up, when we face a time to weep or to laugh, when we meet a time to speak or to be silent,

Help us rely on you.

You alone know what the coming year holds. You alone know of our small triumphs and our grand failures.

Gracious God, assure us once again that there is forgiveness in your love. Heal us with the knowledge that our brokenness may be left with you, through Jesus Christ, our savior, born as a tiny babe in a manger. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

People of God, arise and shine for our light has come.

The glory of the Lord has been given to us.

In Christ's birth, we shine in the darkness, sharing the grace and love of God.

Rejoice and be glad, for we are made new in this child's birth, death and resurrection!

***God's Peace Is Shared.**

Song of the Season

**“Jesus, name above all names;
Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord,
Emmanuel, God is with us;
Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.”**
Repeat.

God’s Word Comes Alive

Hebrew Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Anthem

Gospel Reading Luke 2:41- 52

Sermon “Resolutions” Pastor Bill

***Hymn #29** “Go Tell it On The Mountain”

God’s Gifts Are Recognized with Thanks

Call to Offering

We remember today, the words of Jesus, that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do for Christ. May the gifts that we give today be a demonstration of our love for God, and may they maintain and expand the work of Heritage church. We’ll receive our offering.

***Offering Hymn #37** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

*Prayer of Dedication

God source of life and light, help us remember the tasks that you have set before us. Bless these gifts that they may help continue the work we have been called to do. Use our congregation to reflect the love that Christ has shown us. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

Our thanks be to God our creator

Who brings us all we have.

Our thanks be to God, the Savior

Who gives us back our lives.

Our thanks be to God, the Spirit.

Who keeps us close in God’s Love.

It is truly our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, God of mystery and miracle.

In ancient days, you created us in your image to be reflection of your glory. When we fell short and the brilliance of your light within us dimmed,

You held our hands and walked with us out of the garden into all the corners of the earth.

From ancient times, through all the ages,

You have trusted us, redeemed us, saved us and proclaimed us as your people.

In the dark wilderness of days gone by and in days yet to come,

You shine as a pillar of light leading us out of the darkness.

And so with all the people of earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

Hymn #47 “Still, Still, Still”

Holy are you and holy is your son, Jesus Christ the light of the world. From his humble birth to his painful death and his glorious resurrection,

Jesus shone with the light of your love and grace.

His ministry and teaching stand even today as beacons of justice in a world too often darkened by brokenness.

In Jesus’ birth, you invite us to humble ourselves and serve others

In remembrance of Christ, we eat this bread. With faith and hope we take this cup.

Remembering Christ's gifts to us and offering ourselves as signs of light and life to our world.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on all of gathered here that we might be your light in the world. Pour out your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and cup might be filled with your grace and glory.

By your Spirit, make us one with Christ and one with each other. Make us one in ministry in this world until Christ comes in final glory and we feast at our heavenly banquet.

Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, All glory and honor are yours, now and forever.

Amen!

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

God's love is for all, and all are invited to share in communion. *(The bread and cup are held and shared by the whole community as one. Wafers in the center of the tray are gluten free.)*

Prayer After Communion

Into this world of darkness Christ has come as a beacon of hope and love. This day and always, we give thanks for that light, and commit ourselves to live and shine with God's glory. Amen!

God Goes with Us into the World

***Hymn #34** "In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born"

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

You are invited to sit and listen to the postlude, or to join us for the coffee hour and reception.

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This Week at Heritage

9:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship: Pastor Bill
Liturgist:
Communion Servers:
Ushers:
Counters:
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
Refreshments:

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Yoga

Thursday

7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Next Sunday, January 8th

8:55 a.m. Church School
9:30 a.m. Choir rehearsal
10:00 a.m. Worship: Pastor Bill
Liturgist:
Nursery: Annie Kaczmarski
Ushers:
Counters:
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
Refreshments:

You may request prayer support for yourself or for a loved one by calling your concern into the church office at (414-425-2050).

In case of emergency or hospitalization, please contact Pastor Bill (262-357-6964, cell: 262-388-1550), the Church Office (414-425-2050), or Deacon

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Each week, we remember two families in prayer. We thank God for them, ask God's blessing upon them and God's presence with them. Please keep these highlighted families and the other listed people and places in your personal prayers throughout the week.

Highlighted Families:

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Presbytery of –
The people of

Birthdays: Christina Buehler – January 4th

Announcements

Happy New Year!

Thanks to all those who have helped make our Advent and Christmas season one of joy!

The Heritage Session has called a special congregational meeting for Sunday, January 8 after worship for the purpose of electing officers, receiving the 2012 congregational budget (approved by Session) and approving the 2012 pastoral call.