

MUMC At-Home Worship: December 27, 2020

Jesus is born! Even if it looked different this year, I hope you had a joyous Christmas celebration this past week. But Christmas isn't over just yet! As one of the more important days in the Christian year, we try not to skip over Christmas too quickly and instead linger for a few days (twelve, in fact, just like the song!) to really appreciate how incredible it is that God was born among us. Today, the story continues as the newborn Jesus meets two incredible folks on the other end of life. Thanks for joining us in worship today! ~ Pastor Dillon

If available, place a candle in the center of your gathering space and light it with this prayer:

Holy God, we continue to marvel in the incredible story of your birth among us. May our worship today renew the joy of Christmas in our hearts and give us the courage to live as Christmas people in the world. In the name of the newborn Christ, God-with-us, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*, United Methodist Hymnal #217 [watch/listen here](#)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Reflect:

1. How would you have felt about Simeon's words if you were Joseph or Mary? How do you think Mary felt after Simeon prophesied that a sword would pierce her soul too?
2. While Jesus' ministry wouldn't begin for some years yet, just seeing the newborn child in the temple was enough for Simeon to declare that his "eyes have seen [God's] salvation." Still today, as the world awaits the fullness of salvation, we might catch a glimpse of God going about the work of salvation. Where have you glimpsed God at work recently?
3. What do we learn about the ministry of Jesus from these stories? How might we look for the Christ child that Simeon and Anna met in the temple that day to appear in the world today?

Hymn: *Joy to the World*, United Methodist Hymnal #246 [watch/listen here](#)

Prayer Requests: Share prayer requests and have a moment of silent prayer

Lord's Prayer

Hymn: *There's a Song in the Air*, United Methodist Hymnal #249 [watch/listen here](#)

Closing Prayer: Faithful God, thank you for faithful men and women like Simeon and Anna who are intentional about seeking the reconciliation of the world. Help us to be hospitable to all those we encounter, listening to hear their hurts and hopes. Amen.

(Blow out the candle)

Away in a Manger

United Methodist Hymnal #217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down
where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the
sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

“Away in a Manger” music by James R. Murray, 1887, and is in the public domain.

Luke 2:22-40 Common English Bible

When the time came for their ritual cleansing, in accordance with the Law from Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (It’s written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male will be dedicated to the Lord.”) They offered a sacrifice in keeping with

what’s stated in the Law of the Lord, *A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*. A man named Simeon was in Jerusalem. He was righteous and devout. He eagerly anticipated the restoration of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. The Holy Spirit revealed to him that he wouldn’t die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Led by the Spirit, he went into the temple area. Meanwhile, Jesus’ parents brought the child to the temple so that they could do what was customary under the Law. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, “Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It’s a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel.”

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, who belonged to the tribe of Asher. She was very old. After she married, she lived with her husband for seven years. She was now an 84-year-old widow. She never left the temple area but worshipped God with fasting and prayer night and day. She approached at that very moment and began to praise God and to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Mary and Joseph had completed everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to their hometown, Nazareth in Galilee. The child grew up and became strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

Joy to the World
United Methodist Hymnal #246

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, wonders of his love.

"Joy to the World" words are by Issac Watts, 1719, music is arr. from G.F. Handel, 1741, by Lowell Mason, 1848, and are in the public domain.

There's a Song in the Air
United Methodist Hymnal #249

1. There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!
2. There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!
3. In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!
4. We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

"There's a Song in the Air" words by Josiah G. Holland, 1874; music by Karl P. Harrington, 1904, both are in the public domain.