

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD IN SONG

"Lord Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing" #538

**Lord, dismiss us with Thy blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Thy love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us, Traveling through this wilderness.**

**Thanks we give and adoration For Thy gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of Thy salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, Ever faithful To the truth may we be found.**

**So that when Thy love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,
Let no fear of death appall us, Glad Thy summons to obey.
May we ever, May we ever Reign with Thee in endless day.**

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COMMISSION AND BLESSING

SUNG RESPONSE

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" #29 Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

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POSTLUDE *"See Amid the Winter's Snow"* - John Gross, arr. D. Dorthy

DECEMBER 29TH 2024 –10:15AM WORSHIP

PRELUDE *-In the Bleak Midwinter"* - Gustav Holst

GREETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 98:1-3

- (L) O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wonderful things,
His right hand and His holy arm have gained the victory for Him.
(R) **The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His
righteousness in the sight of the nations.**
(L) The Lord has remembered His lovingkindness and His faithfulness to the
house of Israel;
(R) **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" #31

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

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PASSING OF THE PEACE

(L) The Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

(R) And also with you.

(L) Let us offer to one another a sign of the peace of Christ.

PROFESSING OUR FAITH (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, one holy universal Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 24 p. 862

Luke 2:22-40 p. 1,591

(L) The word of the Lord. **(R) Thanks be to God.**

"Letting Go"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD IN SONG

"Faith Begins by Letting Go"

(Tune: *"For the Beauty of the Earth"*)

**Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.**

**Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.**

**Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.**

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PRAYER REPENTANCE

God of grace and glory, we thank you that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ we have been forgiven our sins; past, present, and future. We rejoice in knowing that through the gift of faith we are a new creation in Christ! We admit however, that we have not lived fully into who you have created and redeemed us to be. We do not always love you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We can find it difficult to treat our neighbors and ourselves with the same forgiveness, mercy, and grace which you shower upon us. We ask that by the power of your Spirit, we would be transformed, so we may fully delight in your will and walk in your light, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" #1 vs. 1

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; Let us find our rest in Thee.**

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OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

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 yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.