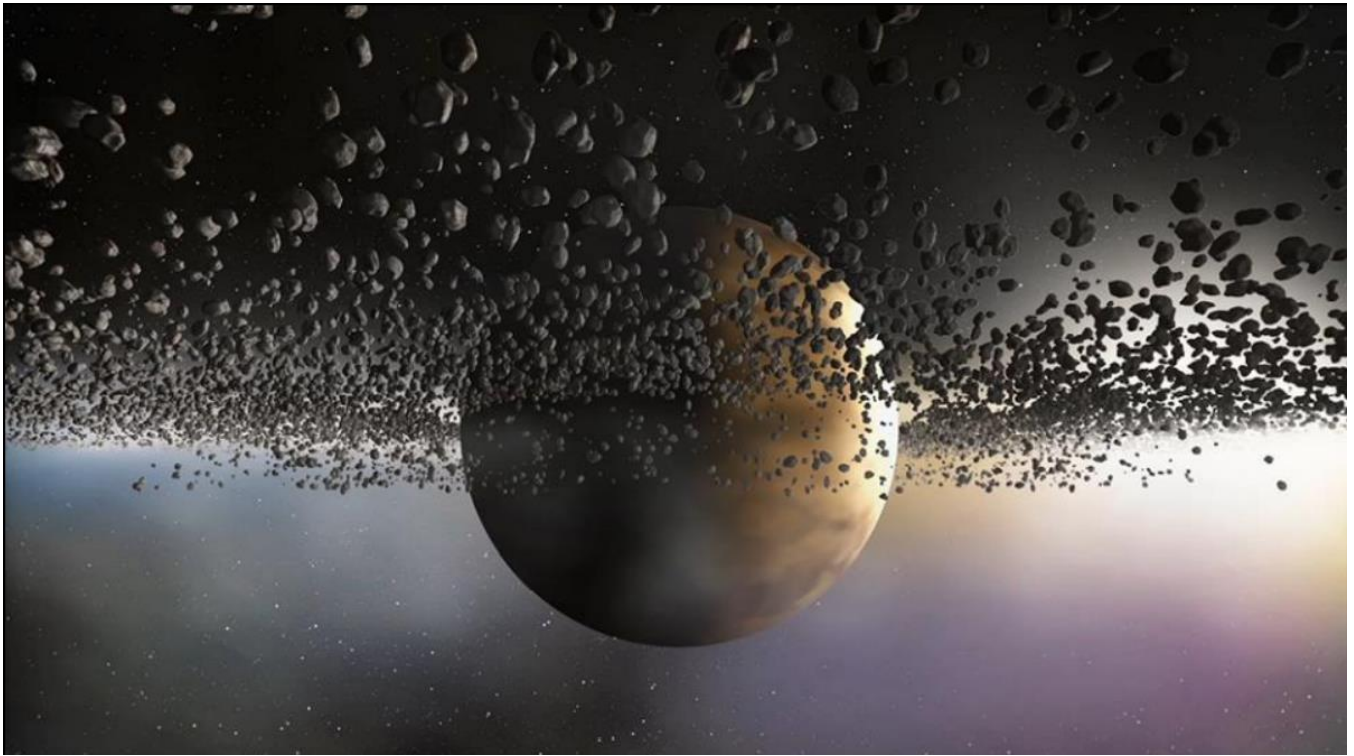


TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

January 3, 2021

829 Salem Road - Union, New Jersey

ORDER OF WORSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

LAY LEADER

Sing praise to God, who gathers us here;
from the ends of the earth we come.
With a word of promise, a spring of water,
a loaf of bread, and a cup of wine,
God turns our mourning into dancing,
our sorrow into joy.

OPENING PRAYER

LAY LEADER

God of every blessing,
We rejoice that you have chosen us from long ago,
adopted us as your beloved children,
and gathered us into your presence.
Now make known in our hearts and lives
your eternal purpose for heaven and earth
so that we may live, this day and always,
for the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #679 *"Let the Whole Creation Cry"*

SONG LEADER

1 Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high." Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King." Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love; sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!	2 Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold; join with children's songs of praise; worship God through length of days. From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll: "Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!"
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CALL TO CONFESSION

LAY LEADER

The gift of God's grace is lavished upon us—
poured out like water—
through the life and death of the risen Lord.
Trusting in the love and goodness of God,
let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

ALL

**Most merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry,
and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

LAY LEADER

This is God's promise,
the sign and seal of your redemption:
You have been called by God,
claimed in Christ,
set free through the Spirit.
Believe this good news:
In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

GLORIA PATRI

ALL

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.**

THE PEACE

LAY LEADER

Just as God speaks peace to the people,
Let us greet one another with words of Christ's peace,
As we embody the new world to come.
The Peace of Christ be with you!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PASTOR

SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Ephesians 1:3-14

PASTOR

SERMON: *“Heavenly Places”*

PASTOR

HYMN #119 *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

SONG LEADER

<p>1 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!”</p>	<p>2 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!”</p>	<p>3 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!”</p>
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JOYS AND CONCERNS, A TIME OF SHARING

PASTOR

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

PASTOR

Let us pray to the Lord, saying,
To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.
Hope of the prophets, joy of the people,
source of all life and song of salvation,

To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.

Remember those who are lost and scattered,
wandering without direction or hope....
Gather them up into your flock and fold;
put a new song of praise upon their lips.

To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.

Remember those who are hungry and thirsty,
languishing because of what they lack....
Satisfy their needs through your abundant love;
lead them to springs of water that never fail.

To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.

Remember those who are sick and suffering,
held in the grip of illness and pain....
Set them free from their affliction;

heal them and renew their strength.

To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.

Remember those who are sad and grieving,
unable to laugh, to dance, to sing....

Give them the peace that can never perish
and the joy that can never be taken away.

To you, O Lord, we pray: come and save your people.

Come and save your people, O Lord,
so that we may rejoice in your goodness
and be radiant in your presence,
singing songs of thanks and praise to the glory of your holy name.

Praying as Jesus taught us to pray...

**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.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

LAY LEADER

Let us gather up the gifts of the Lord,
who fills us with finest wheat.

With thanksgiving,
let us offer our lives to God,
the giver of life.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: HYMN #606

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

LAY LEADER

We give you thanks, God of all creation,
for the power of your life-giving Word,
making the winds blow and the waters flow.
Receive these gifts from our hands,
and use them to bring peace and blessing
to all your children; in Jesus' name. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PASTOR

The astonishment of the Christmas season is this:
Immanuel, God-with-us, was born and lived among us, face to face.
In him we have seen God's glory —
full of grace and truth.
And even here at the Table,
he has promised to meet us,
in bread broken and cup poured out.
From his fullness we have all received,
grace upon grace.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Responsively*)

PASTOR

God be with you.
And also with you.
Let us open our hearts.
We open them to our God.
Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.
It is right to lift up thanks and praise.

Creator God, we give you thanks and praise
for the beauty of the earth in every season.
Especially we thank you for the beauty in this season of Christmas.
The stars of night light our way,
just as Jesus the true light reveals to us the way of life.
Trees and branches,
fruits and berries and flowers
overflow with reminders of your great abundance
toward us in creation.
As Christmas is celebrated in snow and heat,
in dry desert and tropical forest,
each climate praises the diversity of your design.

Even with all you have done for us,

Building Faith, Changing Lives, Sharing Christ

we turned against you,
rejecting your love.
Yet you did not stop loving us.
Instead, you sent prophets,
messengers who announced peace,
good news, salvation!

Therefore we break forth together into singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

As you spoke long ago to our ancestors
in many and various ways,
you have spoken to us by your Son, Jesus Christ.
He is the reflection of your glory;
the exact imprint of your very being;
and all things are sustained by his powerful word.
He lived among us, died for us,
and now sits at the right hand of Majesty on high.

We thank you that on the night before he died,
Jesus took bread
and, giving thanks to you, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat.
This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.
Then he also took the cup, saying:
This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it,
do this in remembrance of me.

Celebrating these gifts from our Savior,
we speak the mystery of faith:

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

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon this bread and wine,
 joining us in true communion with Christ
 and with all who share this feast,
 in heaven and on earth.
 May we truly receive him,
 and so believe in his name,
 that we have power to become children of God,
 united in ministry in every place.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory belongs to you, O God,
 full of grace and truth. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

ELDERS

CLOSING HYMN #4 “Holy God, We Praise Your Name”

SONG LEADER

<p>1 Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you. All on earth your scepter claim; all in heaven above adore you. Infinite your vast domain, everlasting is your reign.</p>	<p>2 Hark! The glad celestial hymn angel choirs above are raising; cherubim and seraphim, in unceasing chorus praising, fill the heavens with sweet accord: “Holy, holy, holy Lord!”</p>
<p>3 All apostles join the strain as your sacred name they hallow; prophets swell the glad refrain, and the blessed martyrs follow, and from morn to set of sun, through the church the song goes on.</p>	<p>4 Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name you, while in essence only one; undivided God we claim you, and adoring, bend the knee while we own the mystery.</p>

BENEDICTION

PASTOR

POSTLUDE

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

31 Glenda Ramdeen



A Note from Our Treasurer:

Please continue to **mail your weekly offerings** to the church office. **Bill Pay and other online banking options** should also be considered. Online contributions may be made through our church's website "Give Now" button:



Our church's Donation Page can also be reached using the Quick Response (QR) Code below. A QR Code is a two-dimensional, modular barcode that, when scanned by a smart phone (most phones use the camera to do this) will connect you to our Donation Page.



"TIME FOR PRAYER" -- 6:00 PM on Wednesdays
Praying by teleconference. All may call in to pray and/or make prayer requests: Dial-in using your phone:
1 717-275-8940 Access code: 367 0530