

## Righteousness and Praise

### Call to Worship

Leader: People of God, when do we rejoice in the Lord?  
When the babe is born.  
When the mother is cherished.  
When the father is tender.

**People: Rejoice!**

Leader: When the star shines bright.  
When the rainbow reminds.  
When the rain renews.

**People: Rejoice!**

Leader: When the city renews.  
When love prevails.  
When our breath breaks through disease.

**People: Rejoice!**

Leader: When we defeat oppression.  
When we free the captives.  
When the earth heals.

**People: Rejoice!**

Leader: When righteousness prevails.  
When all are lifted up.  
When we are free together.

**People: Rejoice!**

*All: Christ is born. God is here. Together we rejoice!*

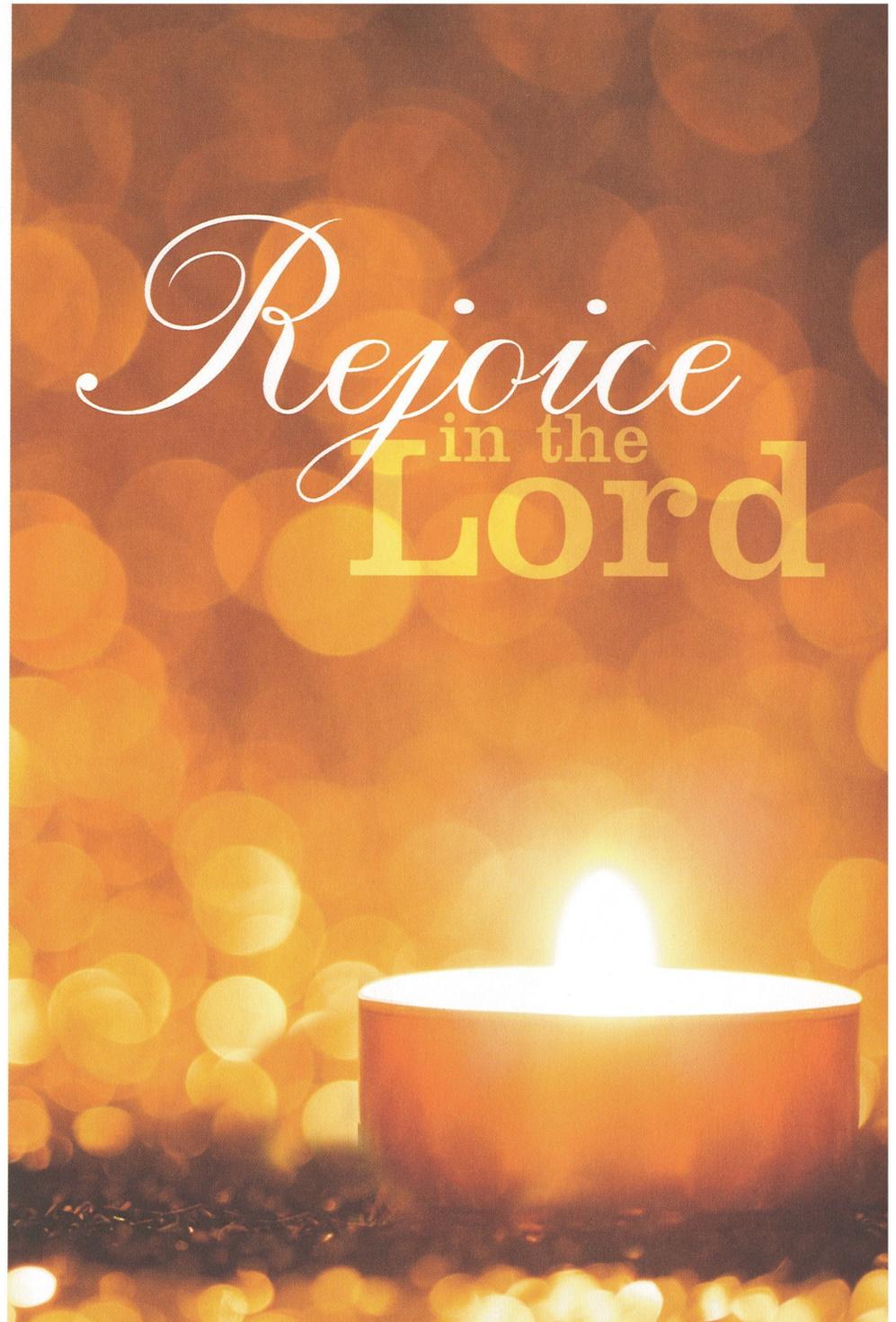
—Jana Carter  
Los Angeles, California

**Text for today:** "I will greatly *rejoice in the Lord*, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations" (Isaiah 61:10-11, NRSV). **Bible readings for today:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (10); Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.

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**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

Worship December 27, 2020

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "Christmas Chimes" (Wells)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Sandy Clipp, Worship Leader

One: The Christmas tree lights have dimmed.

**All: The once-wrapped gifts have been shared.**

One: But the awesome love of God still shines brightly  
in our hearts.

**All: Our spirits resound with the good news  
of salvation.**

One: God is with us!

**All: Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Lord of mercy and joy, you have given to us the blessing  
of your Son Jesus who will make known your presence, for-  
giveness, and love to each one of us. Be with us this day and  
keep our hearts and minds open to receive your love and  
peace. Enable each of us to be people of joy and hope as we  
encounter others. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**\*HYMN #206** "Infant holy, infant lowly"

[Verse 1]

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall, oxen lowing, little  
knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swiftly winging, angels sing-  
ing, bells ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all,  
Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

[Verse 2]

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil, till the morning new, saw  
the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free  
from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow Christ the babe was born  
for you, Christ the babe was born for you!*

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN** Amy Clipp

**SHARING OUR JOYS, CONCERNS, AND HOPES**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Sandy Clipp

**SPECIAL MUSIC** "The Birthday of a King" (Neidlinger)  
Ed Plank, soloist

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Call to Giving**

We come before the child to offer our gifts and the question  
lingers in our hearts. What can we give him? What gift is wor-  
thy? How much is enough? Where is the need the greatest?  
What can we do? Let us stretch to give more than we planned  
and let us give our whole selves in gratitude for the greatest  
gift the world has known, Christ our Lord.

Although we are not gathered in the sanctuary, it's still  
very important that we give our offerings so that we can fulfill  
our obligations and keep the ministries of the church operat-  
ing. As you listen to the offertory, you could use this moment  
to prepare your offering to mail into the church, or to drop off  
at the church, or now you can go to the HCOB webpage and  
use PayPal to give your offering. We thank you for participat-  
ing in this significant act of worship.

(continued)

**Offertory** "Carols at the Manger" (Smith)

**\*Response #119** "Doxology"

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Accept these offerings, O God, as an expression of our desire to honor you and to help build your kingdom here on earth. Bless the offerings of ourselves and our resources, and give us wisdom for the use of them. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING: Exodus 3:1-7**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the Lord said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings,

**MESSAGE** "Where's the Fire"  
Brian Bearese

**\*HYMN #210** "Good Christian friends, rejoice"

[Verse 1]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!*

[Verse 2]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are bless'd forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

[Verse 3]

*Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!*

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE** "Tell the Good News" (Smith)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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