



**CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**January 2, 2022**

**Livestream & In-Person**

**10:00 a.m.**

PRELUDE

**“Good Christians, All, Rejoice”**

Randy Benfield, organ

Held

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

CALL TO WORSHIP

Clint Dahlke

Leader: Come to worship, people of God

**People: We come ready to be embraced by God’s love and grace. We come open to the Spirit moving among us.**

Leader: Come to worship, people of God

**People: We come ready to embody God’s love and grace. We come open to being Christ’s hands and feet.**

\* HYMN

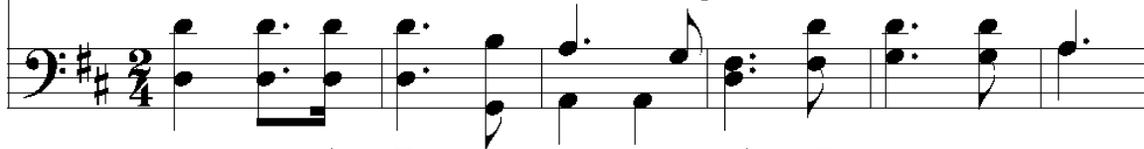
**“Joy to the World”**

No. 134  
*Glory to God*

## Joy to the World



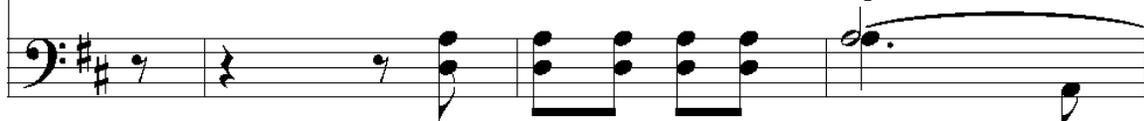
1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -



her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,  
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow  
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
 and heaven and na - ture sing,



sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.



heaven and na - ture sing,

CALL TO CONFESSION

Clint Dahlke

Leader: As we enter a new year, let us pause to confess our old ways of sin and embrace each new opportunity Christ presents us. Let us confess our sins.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Christ our savior, you have empowered us to become children of God, but we doubt our power and our ability to create change. We excuse ourselves from necessary action citing priorities that are not yours. We deny the gifts and talents with which you have blessed us to embody love and work for justice. Forgive us. Merciful God. Remind us how much we have to offer. Amen.**

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

\* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

**"Gloria Patri"**

Traditional

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, Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

SONG

**"O Word of God Incarnate"**

No. 459  
*Glory to God*

# 459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;  
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diancance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life,<sup>[a]</sup> and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own,<sup>[a]</sup> and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,<sup>[a]</sup> full of grace and truth. <sup>15</sup>(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. <sup>18</sup>No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son,<sup>[a]</sup> who is close to the Father's heart,<sup>[a]</sup> who has made him known.

SERMON

**"Too Good to be True"**

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*(If you are worshiping via live stream, place a plate with bread or crackers in your home worship space. Beside it set a cup with juice, wine, water, or other common beverage. With these elements we celebrate the shared presence of Christ that connects and nourishes our communion of faith.)*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come for the food God gives. Here is no message, no commandment no promise, no warning, no blessing, though God gives those at other times. Come for food if you are hungry, or you have never been hungry, or if you remember hunger every day. Come if you plant and harvest, drive a truck, stock shelves, bus tables, toss pizza dough. Come if you work in the kitchen at a retirement community, school, restaurant, hospital, food pantry, or prison. Come to the Table and be filled by the Bread of Life and Cup of Salvation.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Pastor: There are sacred stories about eating together that remember a garden with many trees, barley fields gleaned to feed the poor, a starving widow with a child who offered her last meal and oil to offer bread to a wandering prophet, a whale who saved another prophet by swallowing him to ferry him to safety.

There are sacred stories that celebrate festivals, the end of famines, the kindness of strangers, and even the generosity of ravens. We remember that Jesus made a wedding brighter, multiplied a small child's lunch, ate with those who were not welcome at respectable tables, while telling awkward parables that made people angry.

We remember a sacred story of a Passover meal when Jesus washed gnarly toes, dipped bread in the same cup as his betrayer, and with another he knew would deny him. He made sure everyone was fed before taking a small piece of holiness, and pouring a sip of compassion, and naming himself as food.

And so now we come, clothed in our own sad times and joys, replacing even the wisest of words with food and we pray ...

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: God, in this pot-luck we call church, you feed us as hungry guests, nourishing and fortifying us so that we can host your table of love every day. Our meals vary from fast food breakfasts and routine school lunches to joyful picnics and barbecues to the first Jell-o after surgery to the covered dish at a home of grief. May both commonplace and special meals remind us that Jesus' breath of peace hovers over the meals of every child of God and your Spirit makes this bread and cup a miracle deep as faith and ordinary as hope. As we feast upon these gifts of bread and cup, join us with Christ, with one another, and with all your saints until we all feast together in glory. Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### COMMUNION

*(Wherever you are, in the Sanctuary or at home, partake of the bread and the cup)*

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### OFFERING

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: God of the nations, your star has risen in the night sky guiding us to Christ, your son. The radiance of your Word made flesh fills us with awe and wonder. Keeping our eyes fixed on the glory of Christ, we pause here to lift our earthly concerns and our human needs to you in prayer.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

In the aftermath of devastating storms, when the earth feels set against us and the climate rebels from our abuse, guide us, Creator, into right relationship with the natural world. Help us heal and restore the earth even as we work to rebuild homes, businesses, churches, and communities after storms. We are grateful for the home Mother Earth provides. May we learn to live with her in peace.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Redeemer God, as anxiety spreads over the Omicron variant, guide us in wise decision-making, faithful leadership and responsible action. May the health and safety of our communities, our vulnerable populations and our essential workers be foremost in our thoughts. Restrain our impatience, our impulsive desires to return to business-as-usual before it is safe. Protect us and those we love from the danger of disease.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

God of Grace, comfort those for whom this new year brings not promise but pain. We grieve with those who have lost loved ones in 2021. Pray for those who can't find their way to hope. We understand those who don't want to begin again, who are frustrated by change, who want a clear and certain path forward. Encourage us, God, and walk with us into this new and uncertain landscape. Guide us in your path of peace.

Favorably hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

United as the Body of Christ we lift these prayers to you, Savior God. Hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together,

**Unison:** 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

No. 132  
Glory to God

# 132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Christian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Christian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Christian friends, re - joyce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

The Lord whom we love, whom we worship and adore,  
We will serve throughout this coming week. He it is who binds us together,  
And He it is who sends us apart, to be God's people, be God's people. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**"Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts"**

Saint-Saens

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\*Please stand if you are able.

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Audio/Video: Steve Parker and Michael Gray