

Worship for December 31, 2023

Prelude

*Call to Worship Isaiah 60:1-3

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**Nations shall come to your light
and rulers to the brightness of your rising.**

*Hymn 143 Angels From the Realms of Glory

Prayer

Eternal God,

**A thousand years in your sight are like a watch in the night.
as you have led us in days past, so guide us now and always,
that our hearts may learn to choose your will, and new resolves be strengthened.
Forgive what we have done that denies our devotion to you.
and forgive us for failing to do kindness in your name.
Set us free to love and serve you in this new year,
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.**

*Hymn Take, O Take Me As I Am

Assurance of Forgiveness Romans 8:34

Hear the good news!

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

The old life is gone and a new life has begun.

This is our peace. Amen.

Old Testament Reading Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

Time With Our Young Disciples

Gospel Reading Matthew 2:13-23

The Morning Message Ring Out, Wild Bells

*Hymn 147 The First Nowell, verses 1 and 2
*Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed p. 35
*Hymn 581 Gloria Patri

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Presenting Our Tithes and Offerings
*Hymn 607 Doxology
Offertory
*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn The First Nowell, verses 5 and 6

*Blessing
Go now, and bear witness to the light so others might believe.
Since you are chosen in Christ,
live before him in love, holy and blameless.
Live with hope in Christ, for the praise of his glory.
And may God fill the earth with peace;
may Christ give you grace upon grace from his fullness;
and may the Holy Spirit, the pledge of your inheritance,
lead you on straight paths where you will not stumble. Amen. *Laughingbird.net*

*Postlude