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December 11, 2022      **Youth Christmas Worship (Where Is God's Throne?)**

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Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

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## Prelude

### Entrance Hymn *Please Stand*

“Joy to the World”

- ♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- ♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- ♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
- ♪ He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;  
Setting: Lowell Mason 1792-1872; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Opening Sentences

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,

**Let them say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”**

*1 Chronicles 16:31*

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty;

**The LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.**

*Psalm 93:1a*

Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns! Yes, the world is established;

**It shall never be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.”**

*Psalm 96:10*

The LORD reigns, let the earth rejoice;

**Let the many coastlands be glad!**

*Psalm 97:1*

Then the moon will be confounded and the sun ashamed,

**For the LORD of hosts reigns.**

*Isaiah 24:23a*

“Hallelujah!

**For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.**

*Revelation 19:6b*

## Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

- ♪ O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold Him Born the king of angels:  
~O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!
- ♪ Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;  
Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,...

♪ Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God In the highest: ~O come,...

♪ Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ~O come,....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 379-Text & Tune: John F. Wade c.1711-86; tr. Frederick Oakeley 1802-80;  
Setting: The Hymnal 1940; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## The Question

Yes, the LORD reigns! So,  
Where is God's throne?

## Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 6:1–5

<sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup>And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

<sup>4</sup>And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

## The Question

Where is God's throne?  
In heaven! Where He reigns!

## Gradual Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

♪ 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 th' angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
~Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

♪ Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th' incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as Man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ~Hark!...

♪ Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth. ~Hark!....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 380 -Text: Charles Wesley 1707-88; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn 1809-47;  
Setting: William H. Cummings 1831-1915; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Handbell Choir

### The Question

Can God be limited only to reign in heaven?  
Where is God's throne?

## Christmas Story

Luke 2:1–7

- <sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.  
<sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria.  
<sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town.  
<sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,  
<sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.  
<sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth.  
<sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## The Question

Where is God's throne?  
In Bethlehem!  
Where is God's throne?  
In a manger!

## Hymn

“Away in a Manger”

- ♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- ♪ The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
- ♪ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364-Text: Little Children's Book, Philadelphia 1885, vv. 1-2; Vineyard Songs, Louisville 1892, v.3  
Tune: James R. Murray 1841-1905; setting: Joseph Herl b.1959; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## The Question

Where is God's throne?

## Christmas Story Continues

Luke 2:8–16

- <sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.  
<sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.  
<sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.  
<sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
<sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.”  
<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”

<sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

### The Question

Where is God’s throne?

Being worshipped in a manger.

Being worshipped in a feeding trough for cattle, and sheep, and oxen...

### Hymn

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

♪ Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o’er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

~Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo. Glo - - - ria in excelsis Deo.

♪ Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song? ~Glo-ria...

♪ Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. ~Glo-ria....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 368-Text: French, tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London 1862  
Tune: French, setting: Edward S. Barnes 1887-1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

### The Question

Where is God’s throne?

### Christmas Story Continues

Luke 2:17–20

<sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

<sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

<sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### The Question

Where is God’s throne?

In Mary’s heart!

In the shepherds’ hearts!

In our hearts!

### The Hymn

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

♪ Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild, Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

♪ Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav’nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

♪ Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 363-Text: Franz Joseph Mohr 1792-1848; tr. John F. Young 1820-85;  
Tune: Franz Xavier Gruber 1787-1863; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

### The Question

Where is God’s throne?

## The Story Continues

Matthew 2:1, 9–11

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came...

And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.

<sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

<sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

## Hymn

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

♪ O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

♪ For Christ is born of Mary, And, gathered all above While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wond’ring love. O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the king And peace to all the earth!

♪ How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv’n! So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav’n. No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.

♪ O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 361 -Text: Phillips Brooks 1835-93; Tune: Lewis H. Redner 1831-1908;  
Setting: Service Book and Hymnal 1958; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## The Question

Where is God’s throne?

On earth with Mary and Joseph!

Worshipped and adored in Bethlehem!

## Offering and Musical Offering

## Hymn

“Let All Together Praise Our God”

♪ Let all together praise our God Before His glorious throne;  
Today He opens heav’n again To give us His own son, To give us His own Son.

♪ He leaves his heav’nly Father’s throne, Is born an infant small,  
And in a manger, poor and lone, Lies in a humble stall, Lies in a humble stall.

♪ Within an earthborn form He hides His all-creating light;  
To serve us all he humbly cloaks The splendor of His might, The splendor of His might.

♪ He undertakes a great exchange, Puts on our human frame,  
And in return gives us His realm, His glory, and His name, His glory and His name.

♪ He is a servant, I a lord! How great a mystery!  
How strong the tender Christ Child’s love! No truer friend than He, No truer friend than He.

♪ He is the key and He the door To blessed paradise;  
The angel bars the way no more. To God our praises rise, To God our praises rise.

*Please Stand*

♪ Your grace in lowliness revealed, Lord Jesus, we adore  
And praise to God the Father yield And Spirit evermore; We praise You evermore.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 389-Text & Tune: Nicolaus Herman c.1480-1561; tr. F. Samuel Janzow 1913-2001 vv.1,3-7;  
tr. August Crull 1845-1923 v.2; ©1969 Concordia Publishing House; Used by permission; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

**Prayer of the Church** *Each petition concludes with the following:*

God of glory,

**Let Your peace and hope reign.**

## Lord's Prayer

## Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

**Where is God's throne?**

Where is God's throne?

In you and me and wherever His message of grace, love, and forgiveness is proclaimed!

## Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

~Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!

♪ While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. ~Go tell it...

♪ The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. ~Go tell it...

♪ Down in a lonely manger The humble Christ was born;  
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. ~Go tell it....

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 388-Text: African American Spiritual, ref. John W. Work II 1873-1925  
Tune: African American Spiritual; Setting: Hugh Porter 1897-1960; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

## Postlude