

## *The Order for the Worship of God*

January 3, 2021

11:00 a.m.

*"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*  
(Revelation 1:5b-6)

Welcome and Announcements (Please turn your cell phone to "silent" mode. Thank you!)

Prelude *Two French Carols* arr. Brant Adams  
Deborah Davis, piano and Norm Malenke, cello

Call to Worship from Mark 8 and Psalm 96:6

PASTOR: Jesus asked his disciples, "But who do you say that I am? Peter answered him, "You are the Christ."

ALL: Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

\*Hymn #207 *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* words on back and on screen

Morning Prayers for Christ's Church and the World Ruling Elder Larry Martin

Scripture Lesson Mark 1:1

Sermon #1 on The Gospel of Mark Rev. Dr. H. Andrew Silman

Please read the following prayer followed by your personal prayer of confession to God

Our Father in heaven, Omnipotent Creator and Sustainer of the universe, we marvel that you hold us securely in the palm of your hand out of which nothing can snatch us. You have held us fast throughout the past year which, quite frankly, we are glad is behind us. Our manner of life, our daily routine, even our gatherings with family, friends, and for worship were disrupted. Even so, you kept your promise to be with us every moment of every day and we lift up grateful hearts to thank you. We don't know what tomorrow may bring, much less this new year; however, whatever lays ahead we know you will be with us every step of the way. By your Word and Spirit, you will be at work to make us holier in our thoughts, and what we say and do. We also confess those times when we have questioned your purposes and doubted your goodness. For Jesus' sake, please forgive us. On this first Lord's Day of 2021, let us take to heart the words of the Apostle Paul, who said: "Not that I am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own ... one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

\*Congregation Stands. (Please feel free to be seated at any time.)

**WELCOME TO ALL** who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION:** We invite all baptized believers who are members in good standing of any evangelical (gospel preaching) church to partake; those who are not members in good and regular standing of such a church are welcome to remain and seek the Lord in prayer but are respectfully asked not to partake. Children, who have not professed faith in Christ, likewise should refrain. **Communion packets are available in three locations in the rear of the auditorium. Those with wine are marked with a "W."**

**DR. SILMAN'S SERMONS** are prerecorded and aired at 8:00 a.m. on WSQL Radio (1240 AM or 102.1 FM or may be accessed online at [www.wsql.info](http://www.wsql.info)) each Sunday. They are also emailed to those who are unable to attend worship in person. If you would like to receive the sermon by email and are not currently a recipient, please contact Leigh Lipsi to be added to the list ([leighlipsi@gmail.com](mailto:leighlipsi@gmail.com)).

**SERMON SERIES ON THE GOSPEL OF MARK:** In today's skeptical age, many people insist that Jesus was, at best, a great teacher. Mark demonstrates that he was, and is, so much more. Mark's gospel is action-packed and fast-paced. Jesus vanquishes demons, banishes diseases, subdues the forces of nature, satisfied hunger, and silences critics. More miracles are recorded by Mark than in the other, longer, gospel narratives to make his unshakable case for Jesus' true identity so that we, with the Apostle Peter, confess: "You (Jesus) are the Christ" (Mark 8:29). May God the Holy Spirit use this in-depth sermon-series to nourish and strengthen our faith in him who came "not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

## GOOD CHRISTIAN MEN, REJOICE

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice.  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.  
Earth and heav'n before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, 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 man is bless-ed evermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, 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!

## JOY TO THE WORLD! THE LORD IS COME

Joy to the world! The Lord is come, let earth receive her King.  
Let every 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.

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.