

His lordship is real.

**It demands our loyalty and sets us free
from the fear of all lesser lords who threaten us.**

We maintain that ultimate sovereignty
now belongs to Jesus Christ in every sphere of life.

Jesus is Lord!

He has been Lord from the beginning.

**He will be Lord at the end.
Even now he is Lord.**

***Hymn 113**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

***The Charge**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Recount the gracious deeds of the Lord, the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,
**because of all that the Lord has done for us,
and the great favor he has shown according to his mercy,
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.**

Let us surely be his people, as children who will not deal falsely:

He has become our savior in all our distress.

***Blessing** (minister)

***Postlude**

“Now Sing We, Now Rejoice”

J.S. Bach

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

A hearing loop is active; set hearing aid to “T-coil.”

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version.

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Montreat Presbyterian Church is an Earth Care congregation.

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

Morning Meditation

Katharina Schütz Zell (1498-1562)

“Did not God decree, from eternity, to allow the Word to become flesh for us? Did God not inwardly prepare your heart, through the Holy Spirit, to believe and be obedient to it? This is what Christ at His coming did, and will continue doing so until the end of the world.”

Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship

Choral Introit

“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

French carol

arr. Pavone

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 148:11-14

Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,

for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.

**He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!**

***Hymn 134**

“Joy to the World”

Prayer of Confession *followed by silent prayer*

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not lived as your faithful children.

We have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred.

We have been idle in the face of violence and injustice.

We have not been a light to the nations,

and our lives have not revealed your glory.

Forgive us, we pray,

and restore in us your beautiful grace. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison (unison) GOD REST YOU MERRY, arr. Hare
O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.
And save us all from Satan’s power when we have gone astray.
O Lord, have mercy on us, mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon and Response (unison) GLORY TO GOD
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Choral Anthem “Where Shepherds Lately Knelt” Vajda/Courtney
Ann Neel, flutist

Where shepherds lately knelt, and kept the angel’s word, I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred; but there is room and welcome there for me. In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet newborn Babe, how frail! and in a manger bed: a still small Voice to cry one day for me. How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare: a Child, a Son, the Prince of Peace for me. Can I, will I forget how Love was born and burned its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me?

Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 63:7-9

Hymn 132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 2:1-12

***Hymn 147** “The First Nowell”
 Verses 1 and 6, and all refrains, are sung by the full congregation.
 Verse 2: the higher voices in the congregation
 Verse 3: the lower voices in the congregation
 Verse 4: choir
 Verse 5: trio
 Verse 6: congregation

Reading from the Gospels Matthew 2:13-23

The Sermon “Dreams of Home, Dreams of Hope” Keith Grogg

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer

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.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory “Silent Night” Gruber, arr. Carter
Margaret Neale, pianist

***Doxology** IN DULCI JUBILO, arr. Hare
Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below,
Praise the Spirit, evermore; praise Triune God Whom we adore.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith** (responsive) from “A Declaration of Faith”
 We are certain that Jesus lives.
 He lives as God with us, touching all of human life with the presence of God.
He lives as one of us with God. Because he shares our humanity
and has bound us to himself in love,
we have an advocate in the innermost life of God.