

One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village
The child of a peasant woman
He grew up in another obscure village
Where he worked in a carpenter shop
Until he was thirty

He never wrote a book
He never held an office
He never went to college
He never visited a big city
He never travelled more than two hundred miles
From the place where he was born
He did none of the things
Usually associated with greatness
He had no credentials but himself

He was only thirty three

His friends ran away
One of them denied him
He was turned over to his enemies
And went through the mockery of a trial
He was nailed to a cross between two thieves
While dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing
The only property he had on earth

When he was dead
He was laid in a borrowed grave
Through the pity of a friend

Nineteen centuries have come and gone
And today Jesus is the central figure of the human race
And the leader of mankind's progress
All the armies that have ever marched
All the navies that have ever sailed
All the parliaments that have ever sat
All the kings that ever reigned put together
Have not affected the life of mankind on earth
As powerfully as that one solitary life

Dr James Allan © 1926.

RESPONSE

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

29

GO TELL IT 7.6.7.6 with refrain

African-American spiritual
Arr. John W. Work III, 1940

Stanzas, John W. Work II (1872-1925)

Harm. and adapt. Melva Wilson Costen, 1987

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son of the Father.” *John 1:4*

GATHER JOYFULLY

Welcome, Announcements, Quiet Time

Melanie Haslam

*Call to Worship *(Please rise for the Call to Worship)*

Liturgist: Melanie Haslam

Leader: Merry Christmas!

People: Merry Christmas!

Leader: Born to you this day is Jesus Christ our Lord!

People: Let us worship the new born King!

All: Hallelujah, Amen!

*Christmas Carol Sing

“Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him”

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

*Prayer of Confession *(together)*

Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong. We have tarnished the gift you gave freely. We have buried you so deeply in our hearts, the world doesn't see you. We have not followed Christ, we have ignored your teachings, we have lived lives of apathy against your love, we have built fences and fortresses to push people away, and we have silenced the screams of those in need. Forgive us, we pray. Free us from our sin. Free us from our captivity. Free us to a life lived in Joy through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Words of Assurance

In Christ you are forgiven. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace this Christmas.

*Praise Response *(all sing)* “Gloria Patri”

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.

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Garcia Family

Christmas Prayer

Call for Offering

*Doxology *(together)*

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Scripture

Luke 2:1 – 20

NIV

Message

“Why the Chimes Rang”
By Raymond Macdonald Alden

Malissa Garcia

GO FAITHFULLY

*Blessing

One Solitary Life

*Response *(all sing)*

“Go Tell It on The Mountain”
(Refrain Only - See Insert for Music)

Hymn 29

**Congregation stands. If standing is difficult, please remain seated.*

Large print bulletins are provided for those with compromised sight. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Listening devices are available for those with hearing issues. Devices are located in the center entryway to the Sanctuary. A small step-by-step instruction page is there to help you to use the device effectively.