

Nehemiah 8:1-10

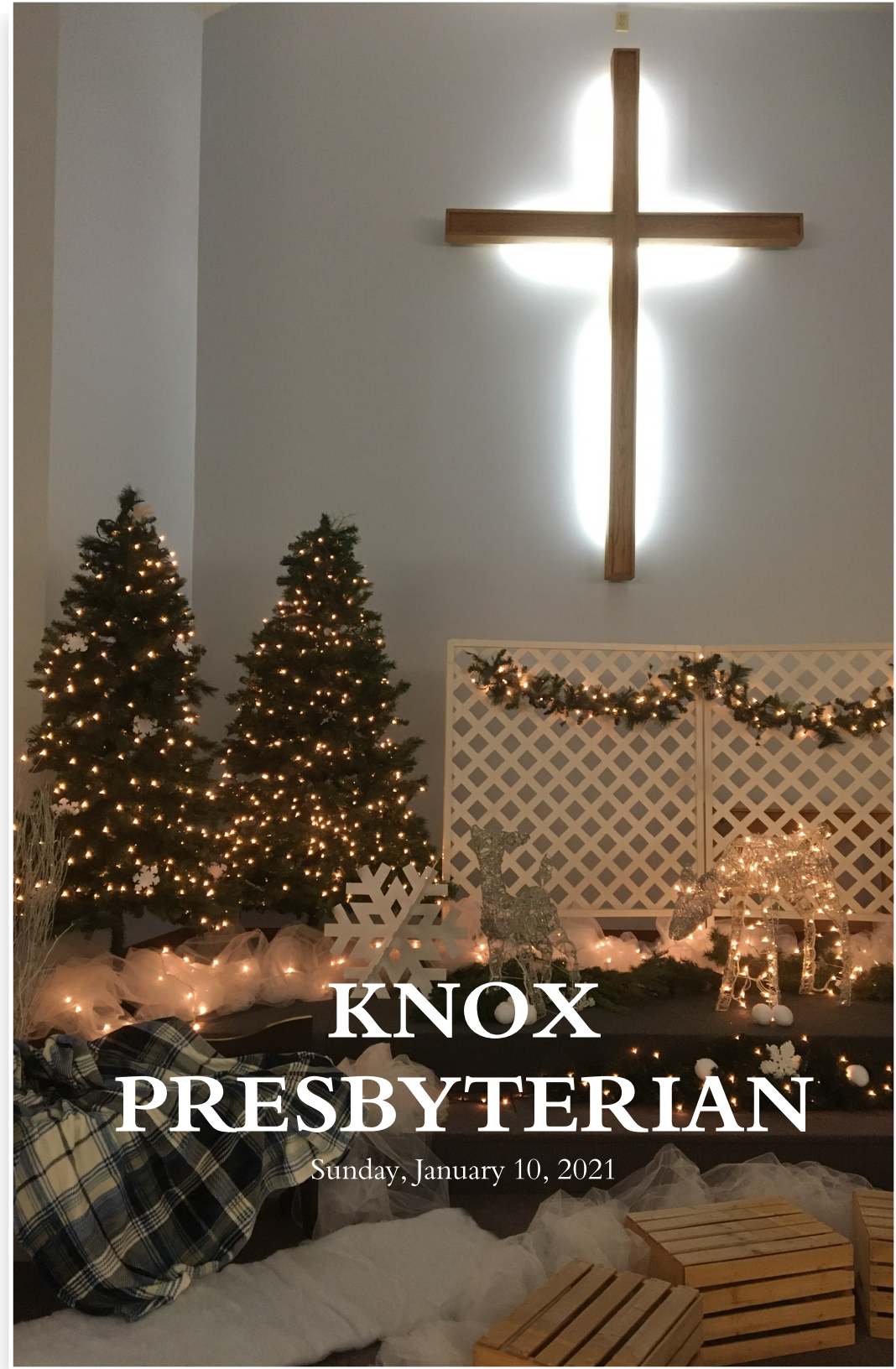
All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. Soon the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon as he faced the square before the Water Gate in the presence of the men, women and others who could understand. And all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiiah, Uriah, Hilkiah and Maaseiah; and on his left were Pedaiah, Mishael, Malkijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah and Meshullam. Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

The Levites—Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan and Pelaiah—instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

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Sunday Morning Worship

The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes that's the book for me;
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

Video Opening

Welcome

It's time for the news.
Here are the headlines:
Good news for the poor.
Release for captives.
New sight for the blind.
Liberty for the oppressed.
The declaration of God's accepting love.
And happy are they who receive it!

Opening Hymn – Tell Me The Old, Old Story

Psalm Reading – Psalm 19

Hymn – Here I Am to Worship

Prayers of the People

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.*

Video - Red Letters

Scripture Lesson - Nehemiah 8:1-10

Christmas Carol – We Three Kings

Epiphany Message

Prayer

Most wonderful God,
foolish and flawed though we are,
we too delight in your beloved Son.
As in his name we gather in the house of many praises,
may the heavens be opened for us,
that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love
that transforms our common days
with a beauty not of our making.
Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen!

Music Moment – Jesu, Joy of Men's Desiring

Coming Events

Closing Hymn – I Saw the Light

Benediction & Response

**I am the Light of the World
You people come and follow me
If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery
Of what you were meant to do and be**
When the song of the angels is stilled
When the star in the sky is gone
When the kings and the shepherds have found their way home
The work of Christmas is begun.

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