



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Advent  
*15 December 2024*

I say, then, to you who would know the only true peace and lasting joy, come to the babe of Bethlehem, in after days the Man of Sorrows, the substitutionary sacrifice for sinners. Come, little children, boys and girls, come, for He also was a boy. "The holy child Jesus" is the children's Savior. —Charles Spurgeon

**Prelude—Still, Still, Still**

Coco Krouse and Mirandi Herrenbruck, piano

Music: Traditional, arr. Melody Bober

**GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP**

*It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.*

**Gospel Invitation—Luke 1:68**

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people."

**Sung Response—Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Vs. 1**

Good Christ - ian men, re - joice \_\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul, and voice; \_\_\_\_\_

Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Je - sus Christ is born to - day;

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; and He is in the man - ger now.

Christ is born to - day! \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is born to - day! \_\_\_\_\_

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. J. M. Neale, 1853;  
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century, harm. John Stainer, 1871.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Call to Worship—Isaiah 61:7, 10-11

Pastor: Rejoice greatly in the Lord; exult in our God!

**All:** For He has clothed us with the garments of salvation; He has covered us with the robe of righteousness.

Reader 1: He has clothed us as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Reader 2: The Lord causes the earth to bring forth its sprouts and a garden to sprout up what is sown in it.

**All:** The Lord God has caused righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

Pastor: Instead of your shame there shall be a double portion; instead of dishonor they shall rejoice in their lot.

### Congregational Hymn—To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born



To us a child of hope is born, to us a Son is giv'n,  
His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored,  
His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, His reign no end shall know;  
To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,



Him shall the tribes of Earth o - bey, Him all the hosts of Heav'n,  
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, the great and migh - ty Lord,  
Jus - tice shall guard His throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low,  
The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the migh - ty Lord of Heav'n,



Him all the hosts of Heav'n.  
The great and migh - ty Lord.  
And peace a - bound be - low.  
The migh - ty Lord of Heav'n.



## Congregational Hymn—Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed between the two staves of each system.

Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing; “Christ is nigh,” it seems to say,  
Wak-ened by the so-lemn warn-ing let the earth-bound soul a-rise;  
Lo, the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from Heav’n;  
That when next He comes in glor-y, and the world is wrapped in fear,

“Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye chil-dren of the day.”  
Christ, her Sun, all ill dis-pell-ing, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.  
Let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-giv’n.  
With His mer-cy He may shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Text: Latin hymn, 5<sup>th</sup> century, tr. Edward Caswall, 1849;  
Music: MERTON (MONK), William H. Monk, 1850.

## Reading of the Word—Luke 1:57-66

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. <sup>58</sup> And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. <sup>59</sup> And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father, <sup>60</sup> but his mother answered, “No; he shall be called John.” <sup>61</sup> And they said to her, “None of your relatives is called by this name.” <sup>62</sup> And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called. <sup>63</sup> And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered. <sup>64</sup> And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. <sup>65</sup> And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea, <sup>66</sup> and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.  
All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Vs. 2



Good Christ - ian men, re - joice, \_\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice; \_\_\_\_\_



Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this!



He has op - ened heav - en's door, and man is blest for - ev - er - more.



Christ was born for this! \_\_\_\_\_ Christ was born for this! \_\_\_\_\_

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. J. M. Neale, 1853; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century, harm. John Stainer, 1871.

## Sermon—*His Name Is...*

—Pastor, James Crampton

## GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

*The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.*

### Confession of Sin—based on Luke 1:13-14, 18-20; Mark 9:23-24

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We are often like Zechariah. You tell us, “Do not be afraid, for your prayer has been heard. And you will have joy and gladness.” You send messengers to speak to us and to bring us this good news.

All: **But we say, “How shall I know this?” because we do not believe Your words, which will be fulfilled in their time.**

Pastor: Jesus said, “All things are possible for one who believes.”

All: **But we cry out with those who went before us, “We believe; help our unbelief!”**

*(Silent prayers of confession)*

## Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes a - way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us. —

O Lamb of — God, that takes a - way the sins of the world,

*Slightly faster* WOMEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy, Grant us Thy peace,

MEN

Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace, Grant us Thy peace.

Text: Traditional, based on John 1:29; Music: CLOVERCROFT AGNUS DEI, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

## Assurance of Pardon—Luke 1:77-79; Revelation 15:3-4

The Lord gives knowledge of salvation to His people in the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

Pastor: Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the nations.

All: **Who will not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?**

Pastor: For You alone are holy. Amen.

## Sung Response—Twofold Amen

A - men, a - men

Text: Traditional; Music: DRESDEN, Johann Naumann, 18<sup>th</sup> century.

# HEAVENLY GIFT—*EUCCHARISTO*

*As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.*

## Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

*Amen.*

## Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:

UNISON



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to His peo-ple on earth. —

WOMEN

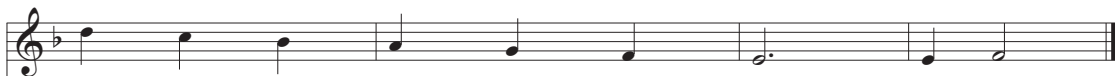


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

MEN



We praise You, we bless — You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,



We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

We give You thanks for Your great glo - ry.

Text: Traditional, based on Luke 2:14; Music: CLOVERCROFT GLORIA, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.



# WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

*This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.*

## Congregational Hymn—Of The Father's Love Begotten



Of the Fath - er's love be - got - ten. Ere the worlds be - gan to be,  
O that birth for - ev - er bless - ed! When the Vir - gin full of grace,  
He as - sumed this mor - tal bo - dy, Frail and fee - ble, doomed to die,  
This is He whom once the si - byls With u - ni - ted voice fore - told,  
Christ, to Thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to Thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the Source, the End - ing He.  
By the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior of our race,  
That the race from dust cre - a - ted Might not per - ish ut - ter - ly,  
Whom the Scrip - tures of the pro - phets Pro - mised in their faith - ful word.  
Hymn and chant with high thanks - giv - ing, and un - wear - ied prais - es be:



Of the things that are, that have been, And that fu - ture years shall see,  
And the babe, the world's Re - deem - er, First re - vealed his sac - red face,  
Which the dread - ful Law had sen - tenced In the depths of hell to lie,  
Let the world u - nite to praise Him, Long de - sired, fore - seen of old,  
Hon - or, glor - y, and do - min - ion, And e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,



Ev - er more and ev - er - more.

Text: 4<sup>th</sup> century, tr. J. M. Neale, 1851 and H. W. Baker, 1859; Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13<sup>th</sup> century.

## Congregational Hymn—See, Amid The Winter's Snow



See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,  
Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies:  
Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,  
Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,



See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
He who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!  
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee, in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

Text: Edward Caswall, 1851; Music: HUMILITY, John Goss, 1870.

# GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

*Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—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.*

## Congregational Hymn—Joy To The World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let Earth re - ceive her King;  
Joy to the Earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em - ploy;  
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;  
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
He comes to make his bless - ings flow  
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness

And Heav'n and na - ture sing, and Heav'n and na - ture sing,  
Re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy,  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
And won - ders of His love, and won - ders of His love,  
And Heav'n and na - ture sing, and Heav'n and na -

And Heav'n, and Heav'n and na - ture sing.  
Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
Far as, far as the curse is found.  
And won - ders, won - ders of His love.  
ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719, based on Psalm 98:4-9; Music: ANTIOCH, Lowell Mason, 1836.

## GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

*After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.*

### Benediction—Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. *Amen.*

### Sung Response—Good Christian Men, Rejoice, Vs. 3



Good Christ-ian men, re - joice\_\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice!\_\_\_\_\_



Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save;



Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ was born to save!\_\_\_\_\_ Christ was born to save!\_\_\_\_\_

Text: Medieval Latin carol, tr. J. M. Neale, 1853; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German Melody, 14<sup>th</sup> century, harm. John Stainer, 1871.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

*Joy!* I love how often joy appears in the stories surrounding the birth of Jesus. Zechariah and Elizabeth certainly had joy and gladness in the son of their old age. But the Bible also draws attention to their neighbors. Joy has a natural tendency to spread. The neighbors rejoiced with Elizabeth, who was rejoicing. These are good neighbors! Surprisingly, joy then led to circumcision. Why would these rejoicing parents submit their son to circumcision? In presenting their little boy to God, Zechariah and Elizabeth hoped in God's ancient promises to Abraham. These aging parents were trusting in the Savior, whom God promised would come through Abraham. And that Savior spent several months in Zechariah's home, though he was still in Mary's womb. Through circumcision, these two elderly, joyful parents took the sign of God's covenant, the covenant that promised Jesus. In the words of one theologian, they were "entering under the wings of the divine majesty" (Herman Witsius). As we take refuge under the shadow of the Almighty Jesus, we find joy.

—Pastor James Crampton

**Key Words:** Birth, Mercy, Rejoice, Call, Name, Bless, With  
**Keystone Verse:** And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. (Luke 1:58)



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Steve Nelson

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*All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.*