



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Advent
8 December 2024

Q. What kind of mediator and redeemer then must we seek?

A. One who is a true and sinless man, and yet more powerful than all creatures, that is, one who is at the same time true God.

—The Heidelberg Catechism

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—Isaiah 58:8

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. "Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily!"

Sung Response—Come All You Worthy Gentlemen, Vs. 1



Come all you wor - thy gen - tle-men that may be stand - ing by.



Christ our bless - ed Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day.



The bless - ed vir - gin Ma - ry un - to the Lord did say,



O we wish you the com - fort and tid - ings of joy!

Text: Traditional; Music: SOMERSET CAROL, Traditional English carol,
arr. Cecil Sharp, *Folk Songs From Somerset*, 1909.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—based on Isaiah 11:1-3; 12:4-5

Pastor: There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse.

All: A branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Reader 1: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding.

Reader 2: The Spirit of counsel and might shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Pastor: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples!

Pastor: Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously.

Congregational Hymn—O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,
O come, thou Branch of Jes - se! Draw the quar - ry from the li - on's claw;
O come, thou Key of Da - vid come, and o - pen wide our heav'n - ly home;
O come, O come, thou Day - spring bright! Pour on our souls thy heal - ing light;

That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
From the dread cav - erns of the grave, from neth - er hell, thy peo - ple save.
Safe - guard for us the heav'n - ward road, and bar the way to death's a - bode.
Dis - pel the long night's ling - 'ring gloom, and pierce the sha - dows of the tomb.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

The musical score is written in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are placed between the vocal and piano lines. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

Text: 12th century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851; Music: VENI EMMANUEL, 13th century,
arr. Thomas Helmore, 1856.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Congregational Hymn—Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for His bed a cat - tle stall;
Flocks were sleep - ing; shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new
Ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of the gos - pel true.
Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row:
Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

Text: Polish Carol, tr. Edith Reed, 1921; Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY, Polish carol,
arr. Joseph Barlowe, 1986.

Responsive Scripture Reading—2 Samuel 7:12-16

Elder: Thus says the Lord of hosts: when your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body.

All: I will establish his kingdom.

Elder: He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

All: I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son.

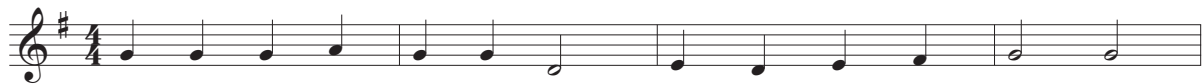
Elder: When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.

All: And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Gentle Mary Laid Her Child



Gen - tle Ma - ry laid her child low - ly in a man - ger
An - gels sang a - bout His birth, wise men sought and found Him,
Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger,



There He lay the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er,
Hea - ven's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round Him.
He is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er



Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;



Ask the saved of all the race who have found His fa - vor.
All the plains were lit that night all the hills were ring - ing.
Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glo - ry!

Text: Joseph Simpson Cook, 1919; Music: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM, *Piae Cantiones*, 1582,
arr. Ernest MacMillan, 1930.

Reading of the Word—Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Come All You Worthy Gentlemen, Vs. 2



Christ our bless - ed Sav - ior now in the man - ger lay;



He's ly - ing in the man - ger, while ox - en feed on hay.



The bless - ed vir - gin Ma - ry un - to the Lord did pray.



O we wish you the com - fort and tid - ings of joy!

Text: Traditional; Music: SOMERSET CAROL, Traditional English carol,
arr. Cecil Sharp, *Folk Songs From Somerset*, 1909.

Sermon—*Faith Like a Teenager*

—Assistant Pastor, Mike Fennema

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 Psalm 32:1-4

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We know that the man is blessed whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

All: Yet we have kept silent, and our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long.

Pastor: In our sin, Your hand feels heavy upon us and our strength dries up as in the heat of summer.

All: We acknowledge our sin to You. We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord.

(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—from Palm 32:1-2, 5; Revelation 15:3-4

Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. You forgive the iniquity of my sin.

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, 18th 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

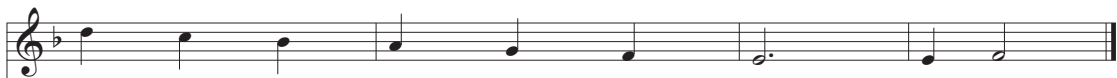


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

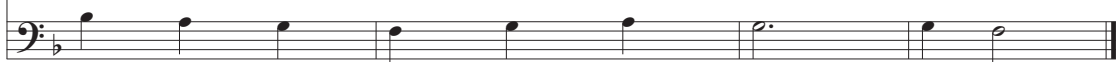
MEN



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—The Angel Gabriel



The An - gel Gab - ri - el from heav - en came, his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
"The hand-maid of the Lord thy ti - tle be. Thy Son as Lord and King ex - al - ted He!—
Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head, to me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ was born in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,



"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry, — most high - ly fav - ored la - dy."
Thy son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told; most high - ly fav - ored la - dy."
"My soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy His ho - ly name: to all the on - ly Sav - ior."
And Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say: — "Most high - ly fav - ored la - dy."



Glo - - - ri - a! _____

Text: Traditional, tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 19th Century;
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE, Traditional Basque carol.

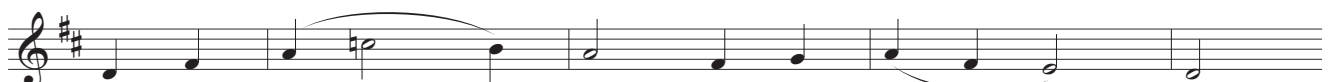
Congregational Hymn—Lovely Child, Holy Child



Love - ly child, ho - ly child, gen - tle, mild, un - de - filed;
Child of light, born to - night, our de - light, prom - ise bright;
Rest Your head, sweet - est head; gifts we'll spread at Your bed.
To this boy, our great joy, we em - ploy hymns of joy;



In - fant King, fair - est King, gifts we'll bring and an - thems sing;
Child so — fair, see Him there; now de - clare Him ev - 'ry where;
Je - sus — Lord, be a - dored, may this word now be out - poured:
Child so — fair: see Him there; now de - clare Him ev - 'ry where:



Al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.



Al - le - lu - - ia, al - le - lu - - ia.

Text: Folk carol, adapted by David N. Johnson, 1968; Music: BETHLEHEM, Folk carol.

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—What Child Is This



What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
Why lies He in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own Him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th century English carol.

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—Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Come All You Worthy Gentlemen, Vs. 3

God bless the ruler of this house, and long may he reign;

Man - y hap - py Christ - mas - es he live to see a - gain!

God bless our gen - er - a - tion who live both far and near;

O we wish you the com - fort and tid - ings of joy!

Text: Traditional; Music: SOMERSET CAROL, Traditional English carol,
arr. Cecil Sharp, *Folk Songs From Somerset*, 1909.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Don't you love singing Christmas hymns at this time of year? There are so many rich pieces of poetry and music that we only sing during this season, I typically need to make a spreadsheet (beginning in November) to make sure that we don't miss any! I try to group the seasonal hymns around a central theme from week to week: for example, last Sunday we sang a group of hymns celebrating the annunciation of Jesus' birth by angels. This morning, the hymns will focus on Jesus' incarnation as a human baby. The three verses of the rustic English carol *Come All You Worthy Gentlemen* form the backbone of the service, occurring several times throughout the morning. Hymns like *The Angel Gabriel* and *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* reference the narrative in Luke surrounding Mary's experience carrying the Christ child, while *Infant Holy*, *Infant Lowly* and *Lovely Child, Holy Child* contrast the humility of Jesus' birth with His exaltation as King of the universe. The service concludes with *What Child Is This*, which looks forward to the day when this "babe, the son of Mary" will bear the cross for His people. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Angel, Nazareth, Virgin, Favor, Conceive, David, Reign, Holy Spirit, Power, Impossible
Keystone Verse: And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericchi (594-3880)	Matt Morrison (482-5107)
Jason Parolini (497-3337)	Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)	

Elder Emeritus

Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)	Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)	Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)
Ben Crist (509-3040)	Nolan Reategui (829-0412)	Joshua Scheenstra (818-653-1113)
Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)	Nae Soundara (519-3720)	Jim Soyster (585-5980)
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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.