



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Childermas
29 December 2024

We are not so very far off from even the sacrifice of babies—if not to a crocodile, at least to a creed. —G. K. Chesterton

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—Matthew 1:21

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Sung Response—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 1



What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!



What won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won - drous love is this



That caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul,



For my soul, to bear the dread - ful curse for my soul?

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, William Walker,
The Southern Harmony, 1835.

Call to Worship—Luke 1:46-47, 49-54

Pastor: Magnify the Lord, and rejoice in God our Savior. For He who is mighty has done great things for us, and holy is His name.

All: His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation.

Reader 1: He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

Reader 2: He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.

All: He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Pastor: He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy.

Congregational Hymn—Angels From The Realms Of Glory

An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Shep - herds, in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear;

Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant light:
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen His na - tal star.
Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in His tem - ple shall ap - pear.

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new-born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1816, 1825; Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry Smart, 1867.

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—All Hail! Ye Infant Martyr Flow'rs



The image shows a musical score for a congregational hymn. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed between the two systems of music.

All hail! ye in - fant mar - tyr - flow'rs, cut off in life's first dawn - ing hours:
You, ten - der flock of lambs, we sing, first vic - tims slain for Christ your King:
For their re - demp - tion glor - y be, O Je - su, Vir - gin - born, to Thee,
As rose - buds, snapt in temp - est strife, when Her - od sought your Sav - ior's life.
Be - neath the al - tar's heav'n - ly ray with mar - tyr - palms and crowns ye play.
With Fa - ther, and with Ho - ly Ghost, for ev - er from the mar - tyr - host.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 5th Century, tr. J. M. Neale, 1868;

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

Responsive Scripture Reading—Isaiah 40:1-5

Elder: Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

All: Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

Elder: A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

All: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

Elder: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

All: For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Coventry Carol

Fine

Lul - ly, lul - lay, thou lit - tle ti - ny child, By by, lul - ly, lul - lay.

O sis - ters too, how may we do for to pre - serve this day;
He - rod, the king, In his rag - ing, char - ged he hath this day
Then woe is me, poor child for thee! And ev - er mourn and say,

After Vs. 3, D.C. al Fine

This poor young - ling for whom we sing, "By, by, lul - ly lul - lay."
His men of might, in his own sight, all chil - dren young to slay.
For thy part - ing nor say nor sing, "By, by, lul - ly lul - lay."

Text and Music: English carol, 15th century, harm. John Stainer, 1878.

Baptism of Aurelian Vedders, son of Elias and Marie Vedders

Reading of the Word—Luke 1:39-45

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—What Child Is This, Vs. 3



So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own Him;



The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.



Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la-by:



Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

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

Sermon—*Blessed Baby*

—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 Galatians 3:8-11

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

All: But all who rely on works of the law are under a curse.

Pastor: For it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.”

All: But we have tried to justify ourselves before God by the law.

(Silent prayers of confession)

Sung Response—Lamb Of God

UNISON

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. —

O Lamb of God, that takes away 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—Galatians 3:13-14; Revelation 15:3-4

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

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

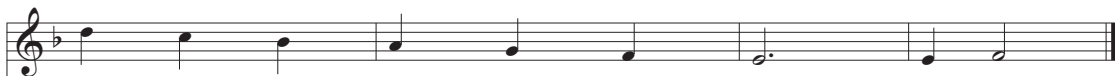


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

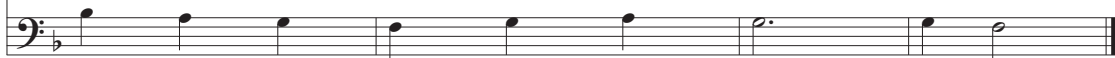
MEN



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—O Savior Dear, Thy Manger Here



O Sav - ior dear, Thy man - ger here my soul shall call a par - a - dise of_ glo - ry.
The wind and sea are calmed by Thee, Thou art en - throned as King in high - est heav - en;
What though our foe would bring us low? His dead - ly an - ger can no more ap - pall us.
Thou prince of hell, thy plans so fell do not a - vail thee for our con - dem - na - tion;
Let oth - ers hold their wealth of gold, thou tru - ly has a more a - bid - ing trea - sure;



Here Thou, O Lord, In - car - nate Word, dost lie as proph - ets told in sa - cred sto - ry.
And yet Thy dress is low - li - ness, Thou as an in - fant small to us art_ giv - en.
Though Ad - am's fall has taint - ed all, Thy sav - ing grace to glo - ry doth re - call us.
Thy vaunt - ed gain is all in vain, for Je - sus is the fount of our sal - va - tion.
Re - joice and sing, thy prais - es bring to Him who bless - eth thee in full - est_ mea - sure.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653, tr. Paul Kretzmann, 1930, alt. 2021;

Music: O JESU CHRIST, DEIN KRIPPLEIN IST, Johann Crüger, 1656; arr. Henry C. Haffner, 2021.

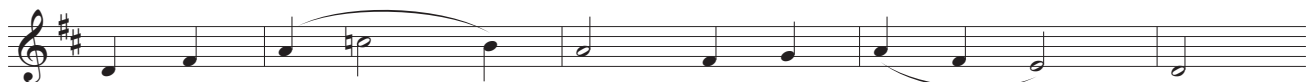
Congregational Hymn—Lovely Child, Holy Child



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.

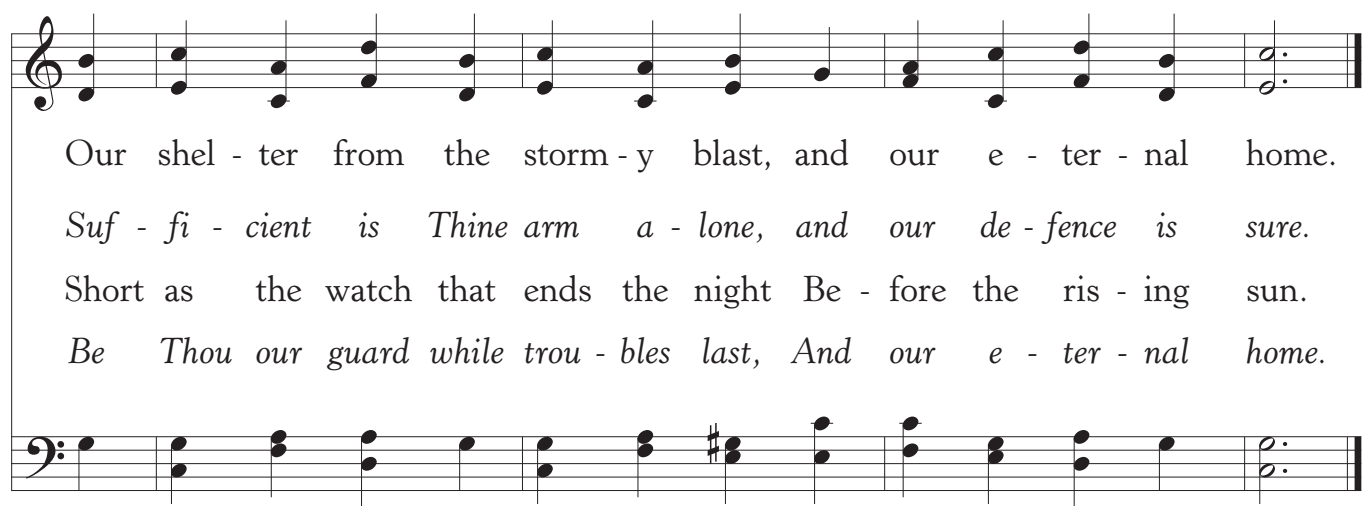
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Congregational Psalm—O God, Our Help In Ages Past (Psalm 90)



O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
Un - der the shad - ow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
A thou - sand a - ges in Thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come:



Our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
Suf - fi - cient is Thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
Short as the watch that ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
Be Thou our guard while trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.

Text: paraphrase of Psalm 90, Isaac Watts, 1719;
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1708.

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—What Wondrous Love Is This, Vs. 4

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,

And when from death I'm free I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,

I'll sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty

I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on!

The musical score is written in 3/2 time and consists of four systems. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves of each system. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass accompaniment.

Text: American Folk Hymn; Music: WONDROUS LOVE, *The Southern Harmony*, 1835.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

December 28 (or in our case, the Sunday closest to it) has traditionally marked the observance of *Childermas*. Also called the *Feast of the Holy Innocents*, this is a day of remembrance and mourning for the children of Bethlehem murdered by the order of King Herod. Along with Stephen, whose feast day (December 26) is also observed during the week after Christmas, these “infant martyr flowers” are considered the first to be martyred on behalf of Christ. Isn’t it appropriate that right in the midst of the celebration of Christmas, we would turn our focus to such a terrible scene of violence? Jesus was born to deal with hearts like Herod’s—and ours. This Holiest Innocent came so that the foe greater than any Herod, Death itself, would be overthrown. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Baby, Leap, Holy Spirit, Blessed, Joy, Believe

Keystone Verse: And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord. (Luke 1:45)



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Assistant Pastor: Mike Fennema, 931-215-1057, mike@parishpres.org
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Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)	Tom Goddard (218-3654)	Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)
Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)	Mike Misericocchi (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)
	Walt Yates (785-477-0990)	

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