



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Childermas

31 December 2023

The Lord Jesus was a “Man of Sorrows” even from infancy. Trouble awaits Him as soon as He enters into the world. The Lord Jesus is just the Savior that the suffering and sorrowful need. He knows well what we mean when we tell Him in prayer of troubles. —J. C. Ryle

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—John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 3



No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;



He comes to make His bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,



Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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

Call to Worship—based on Deuteronomy 30:19; Proverbs 24:10-11

Pastor: Heaven and earth bear witness: the Lord has set before us life and death.

All: He has set before us blessing and cursing.

Pastor: Therefore, let us choose life that we and our children after us may live.

Reader 1: If we faint in the day of adversity, our strength is small. Deliver those who are drawn toward death; hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

Reader 2: If we say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the heart and keeps our souls know it?

All: The Lord has set before us life and death.

Pastor: Therefore, let us choose life.

Congregational Hymn—Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on His throne.
Crown Him the Lord of life, tri - um - phant o'er the grave,
Crown Him the Lord of love, be - hold His hands and side,
Crown Him the Lord of years, the Po - ten - tate of time,

Hark! How the heav'n - ly an - them drowns all mus - ic but its own.
Who rose vic - tor - ious from the — strife for those He came to save.
Rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glor - i - fied.
Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing — spheres, in - eff - a - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
His glor - ies now we sing, who died and reigns on high;
No an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For Thou has died for me;

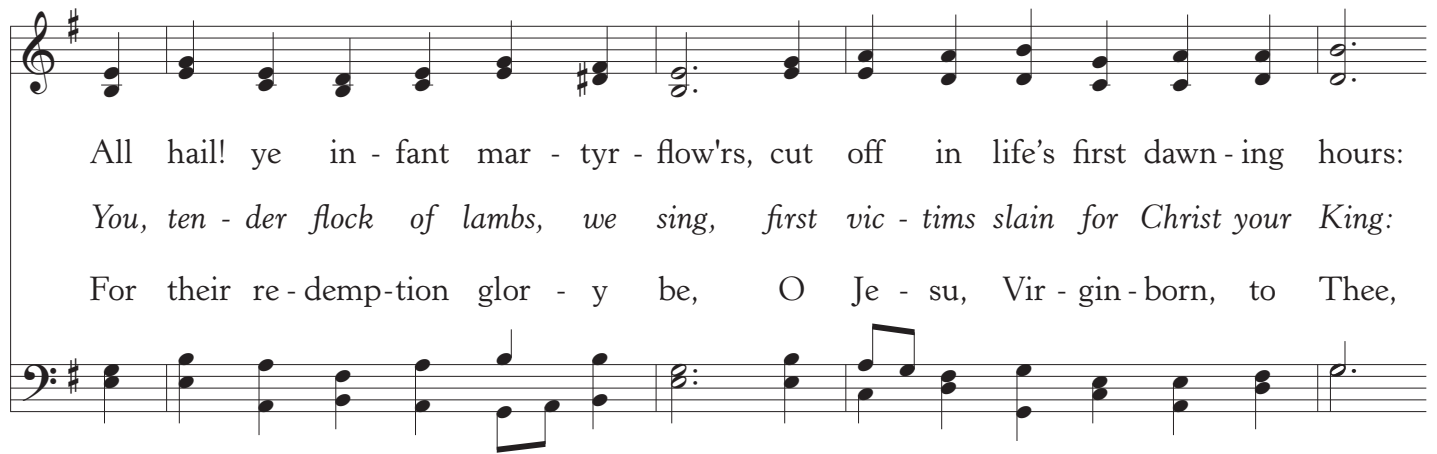
And hail Him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
He died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
But down - ward bends his burn - ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
Thy praise and glor - y shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1852; Music: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

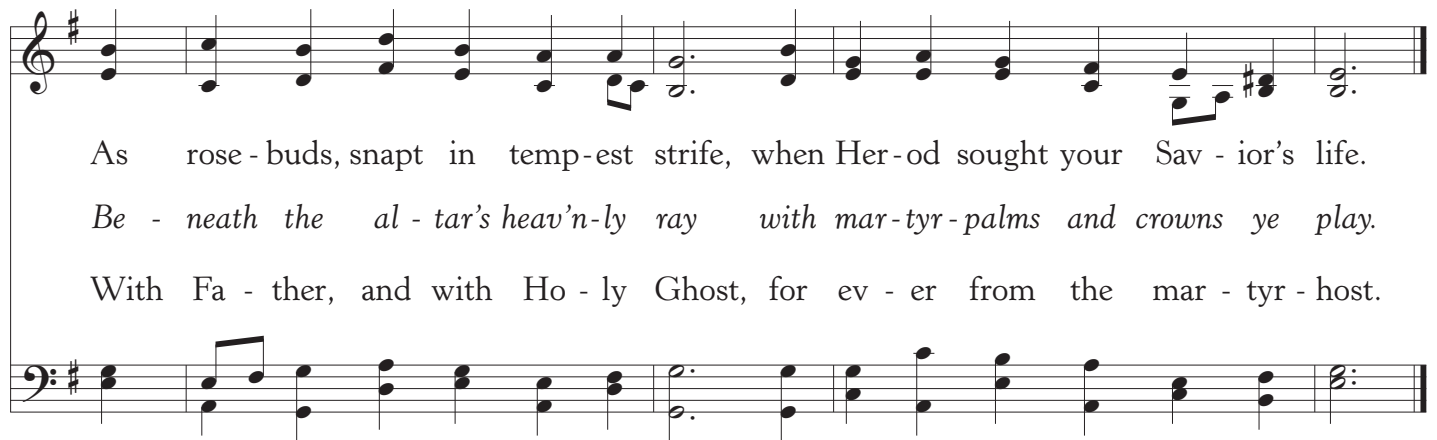
GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

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



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. John Mason Neale, 1868;
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543.

Scripture Reading—Psalm 139:7-8, 13-18

Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there!

For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are Your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in Your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them.

How precious to me are Your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! If I would count them, they are more than the sand. I awake, and I am still with You.

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. at 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.

Reading of the Word—Jeremiah 31:15-20

¹⁵ Thus says the Lord: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more."

¹⁶ Thus says the Lord: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the Lord, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. ¹⁷ There is hope for your future, declares the Lord, and your children shall come back to their own country. ¹⁸ I have heard Ephraim grieving, 'You have disciplined me, and I was disciplined, like an untrained calf; bring me back that I may be restored, for you are the Lord my God. ¹⁹ For after I had turned away, I relented, and after I was instructed, I struck my thigh; I was ashamed, and I was confounded, because I bore the disgrace of my youth.' ²⁰ Is Ephraim my dear son? Is he my darling child? For as often as I speak against him, I do remember him still. Therefore my heart yearns for him; I will surely have mercy on him, declares the Lord."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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.

Sermon—A Voice of Weeping

—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 Psalm 78:1, 4-8, 10

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You commanded us to give ear to Your teaching and to incline our ears to the words of Your mouth.

All: **We should not hide Your words from our children but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and Your might, and the wonders You have done.**

Pastor: You commanded us to teach our children Your testimony, that the next generation might know it, the children yet unborn, that they may arise and tell their children, that they may set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

All: **But we are a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation whose heart is not steadfast, whose spirit is not faithful to God.**

Pastor: We have not kept the covenant of God; we have refused to walk in Your 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—2 Timothy 1:8-10; Revelation 15:3-4

He has saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of His own purpose and grace, which He gave us in Christ Jesus. And He abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

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

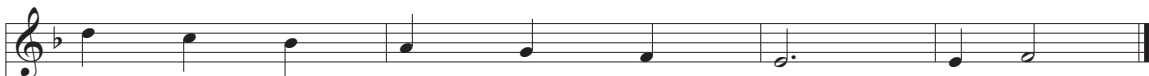


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

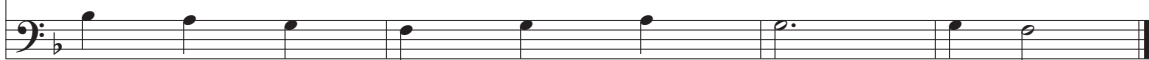
MEN



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—Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor



Thou who wast rich be-yond all splen - dor all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
Thou who art God be-yond all prais - ing all for love's sake be - came - est man;
Thou who art love be-yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.



Thrones for a man-ger didst sur - ren - der, sap - phire paved courts for sta - ble floor.
Stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing heav'n-ward by Thine e - ter - nal plan.
Em - man-u - el, with-in us dwell-ing, make us what Thou woudst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be-yond all splen - dor, all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
Thou who art God be-yond all prais - ing all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Thou who art love be-yond all tell - ing, Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.

Text: Frank Houghton, 1934; Music: QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE, French Carol melody, arr. Charles H. Kitson, 1939.

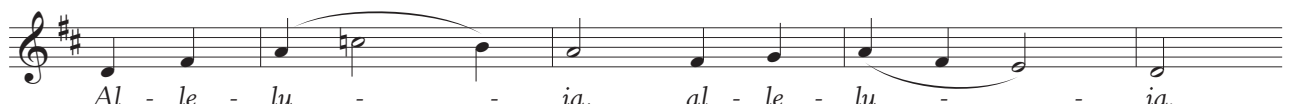
Congregational Hymn—Lovely Child, Holy Child



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)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of two systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the piece ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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—Revelation 22:21

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. *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 2/2 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 line.

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: Voice, Weeping, Children, Comfort, Hope, Restore, Mercy

Keystone Verse: A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more. (Jeremiah 31:15)



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Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org

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Elders

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Tom Goddard (218-3654)

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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson

Steve Nelson

John Scherrer

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Brandon Blair (575-430-6436)

Kevin Cowherd (967-5099)

Ben Crist (509-3040)

Chris Ragsdale (619-988-1876)

Nolan Reategui (829-0412)

Tim Simmons (850-532-8997)

Joshua Scheenstra (818-653-1113)

Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)

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