



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Advent

24 December 2023

Maker of the sun, He is made under the sun. In the Father He remains, from His mother He goes forth. Creator of heaven and earth, He was born on earth under heaven. Filling the world, He lies in a manger. Ruler of the stars, He nurses at His mother's bosom. He is both great in the nature of God, and small in the form of a servant. Thus we have beheld the fullness of glory. —Augustine of Hippo

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 9:6

Good News! Glad Tidings! Great Joy! “Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

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—Psalm 24:7-10

Pastor: The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein.

All: For He has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

Reader 1: Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: **Who is this King of glory? The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Reader 2: Lift up your heads, O gates! And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

All: **Who is this King of glory?**

Pastor: The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory!

Congregational Hymn—Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Good Christ-ian men, re - joice with heart and soul, and voice; _____
Good Christ - ian men, re - joice, with heart and soul and voice; _____
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;
Now ye hear of end - less bliss: Joy! Joy! Je - sus Christ was born for this!
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Je - sus Christ was born to save;

Ox and ass be - fore Him bow; and He is in the man - ger now.
He has op - ened heav - en's door, and man is blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all, to gain His ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! _____ Christ is born to - day! _____
Christ was born for this! _____ Christ was born for this! _____
Christ was born to save! _____ Christ was born to save! _____

Text: Medieval Latin Carol, tr. John Mason Neale, 1853; Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German Melody, 14th century, harm. John Stainer, 1871.

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—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.

Text: John Morrison, 1781; Music: CHRISTMAS, George Frideric Handel, 1723.

Scripture Reading—Hebrews 1:1-3

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. After making purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
I - sai - ah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - age com - ing, as men of old have sung.
With Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin mo - ther kind:
Dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - r' - where,

It came, a flow'r-et bright, a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
To show God's love a - right she bore to us a Sav - ior when half - spent was the night.
True man, yet ver - y God; from sin and death He saves us and light - ens ev - r'y load.

Text: German Hymn, c. 1500, tr. Theodore Baker, 1894; Music: ES IST EIN ROS, German melody, 15th century, harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

Reading of the Word—John 1:14-18

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about Him, and cried out, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because He was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him known.

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—Beholding Glory

—Pastor Emeritus, George Grant

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 Isaiah 9:2-7

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. We confess that we were people who walked in darkness.

All: But now we have seen a great light.

Pastor: We who lived in a land of deep darkness—on us light has shined.

All: Despite our sins, You have multiplied our blessings, You have increased our joy, and so we rejoice before You.

Pastor: We rejoice as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing treasure.

All: For the yoke of our burden and the rod of our oppressor, You have broken.

Pastor: You establish and uphold justice and righteousness—from this time forth and forevermore.

All: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

(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—Titus 3:4-7; Revelation 15:3-4

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to His mercy. And He has poured out His Spirit upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

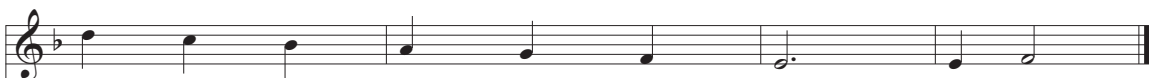


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

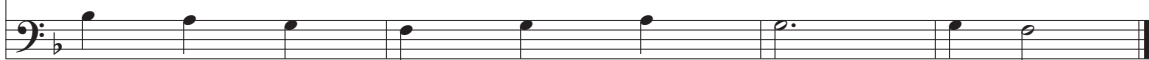
MEN



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—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: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 4th century, tr. John Mason Neale, 1851 and H. W. Baker, 1859;
Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong, 13th century.

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—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 (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the lines of music.

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

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—from Luke 2:29-32

“Lord, now let Your servants go in peace; Your Word has been fulfilled. Our own eyes have seen the salvation which You have prepared in the sight of all: a light to lighten the nations and the glory of Your people.” Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. *Amen.*

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

God bless the rul - er 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!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "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:

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son... —Hebrews 1:1-2a

This final morning of Advent includes the same Scripture reading that concluded the choral service on the first Sunday of Advent: the opening of Hebrews 1. This passage compares the Old Testament prophecies with their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, a theme found in many of the Christmas hymns we sing in this morning's service. *To Us A Child Of Hope Is Born* is a metrical version of the familiar "For unto us..." passage from Isaiah 9, while the German hymn *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* uses the image of a rose to refer to Jesus, reminding us that "Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind." *O Savior Dear, Thy Manger Here* and *Of The Father's Love Begotten* describe Christ as "long desired, foreseen of old," the one "whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised," and the one sleeping in a manger "as prophets told in sacred story." The service concludes with *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*, perhaps one of the most "Advent-y" of Advent/Christmas hymns, voicing the sentiments of the exiled Hebrew people longing for a Savior who would ransom them from captivity. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Flesh, Glory, John, Moses, Fullness, Grace, Truth, Reveal

Keystone Verse: We have seen His glory... full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)



Presbyterian Church in America
4150 Clovercroft Rd. Franklin, TN 37067

Web: www.parishpres.org

Church Office: Sarah Dye, 574-1029, office@parishpres.org

Prayer requests: prayer@parishpres.org

Pastor: James Crampton, 943-1696, jamie@parishpres.org

Pastor Emeritus: George Grant, 574-1029 (office), george@parishpres.org

Associate Pastor: Brian Phillips, 429-8125, brian@parishpres.org

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

Music Director: Henry C. Haffner, 497-6573, henry@parishpres.org

Staff Accompanist: Mirandi Herrenbruck, mirandi@parishpres.org

Music Intern: Emma Marsh, emma@parishpres.org

Audio Coordinator: Chris Ragsdale, chris@parishpres.org

Parish Nursery Coordinator: Chelsea Monroe, 495-0423, chelsea@parishpres.org

Elders

Keith Cannon (636-7137)

Tom Goddard (218-3654)

Brandon Herrenbruck (339-5516)

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)

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.