



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Advent

18 December 2022

When the Redeemer has come to Zion, gathered penitents are appointed a covenant mediator to share the Lord's Spirit with them. It is not just that they are bathed in light but that they are irradiated, inwardly charged with new, outshining life... The Lord's *glory*, that is, the Lord in all the glory of His person and majesty, will appear and will then magnetize the nations out of darkness into *your light*. —Alec Motyer

In Christ are hidden all the parts of salvation and of a happy life. —John Calvin

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 52:9-10

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; He has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has made bare His holy arm before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.”

Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 1



God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may,
Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior was born on Christ - mas day,
To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r when we were gone a - stray;
O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English carol.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—Isaiah 12:1-2

Pastor: We will give thanks to You, O Lord.

All: **For though You were angry with us, Your anger is turned away, that You might comfort us.**

Reader 1: Behold, God is our salvation.

Reader 2: We will trust and will not be afraid.

All: **For the Lord God is our strength and our song.**

Pastor: He has become our salvation.

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

Scripture Reading—Isaiah 49:3-6

And He said to me, “You are My servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified.” But I said, “I have labored in vain; I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely My right is with the Lord, and My recompense with my God.” And now the Lord says, He who formed me from the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to him; and that Israel might be gathered to him—for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord, and my God has become my strength— He says: “It is too light a thing that You should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make You as a light for the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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.

Baptism of Rune Michael, son of Niels and Akiko Michael

Reading of the Word—Luke 2:22-35

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”)²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law,²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
according to Your Word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

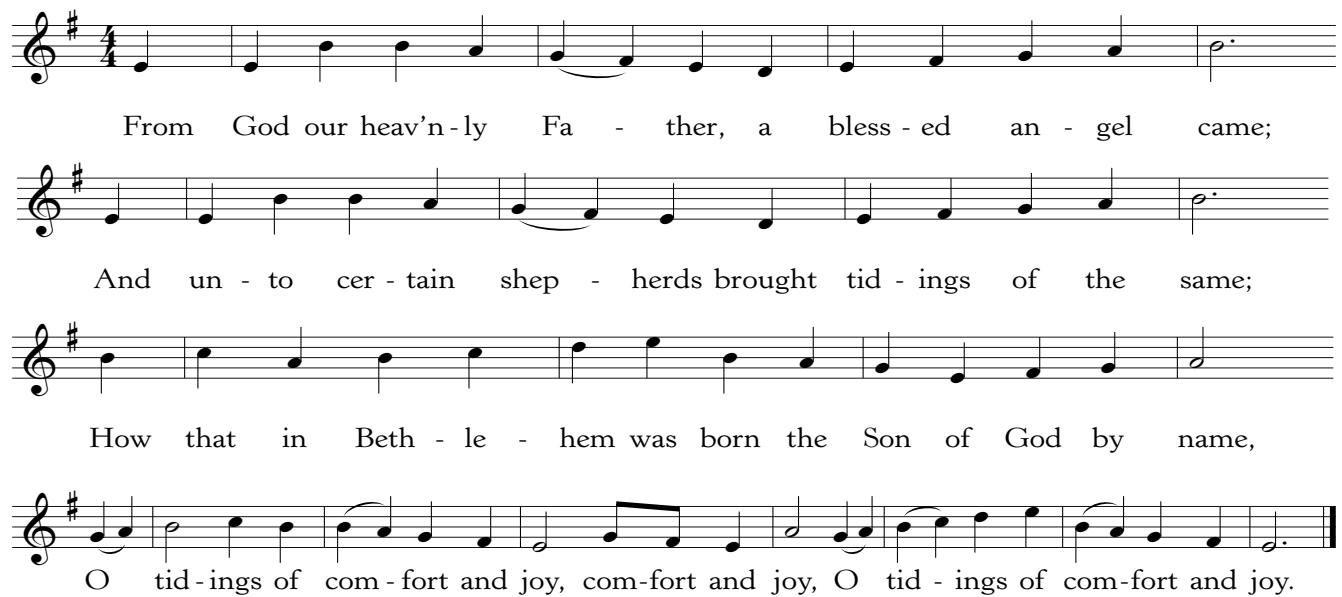
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to Your people Israel.”

³³ And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him.³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 2



From God our heav'n - ly Fa - ther, a bless - ed an - gel came;

And un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same;

How that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name,

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English carol.

Sermon—*The Song of Simeon: Nunc Dimittis*

—Assistant 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—from Isaiah 42:16-18, 20-22, 24

- Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. You lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known You will guide them. You will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground.
- All: **We have been turned back and utterly put to shame because we have trusted in carved idols. We have said to man-made images, "You are our gods."**
- Pastor: We have been deaf when You have spoken and blind when You have revealed Yourself.
- All: **We have seen many things, but we have not observed them; our ears are open, but we have not heard You.**
- Pastor: The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.
- All: **We have become plunder with none to rescue, spoil with none to say, "Restore!"**
- Pastor: Who gave us up to the plunderers?
- All: **Was it not You, O Lord, against whom we have sinned, in whose ways we would not walk, and whose law we would not obey?**

(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—Isaiah 40:1-2; Revelation 15:3-4

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 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.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

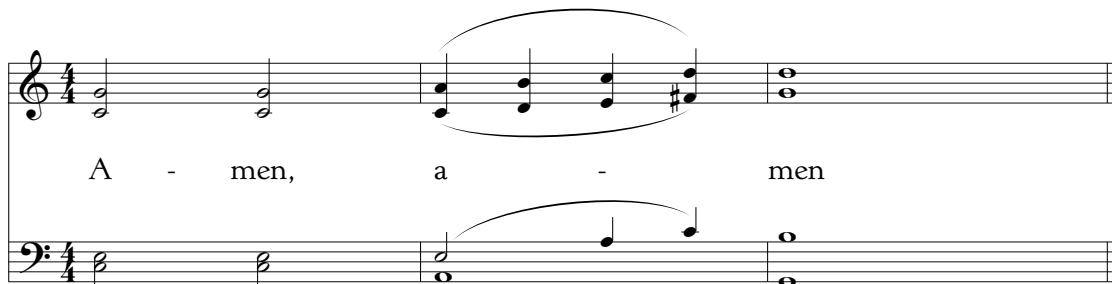
All: **This is the Word of the Lord.**

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

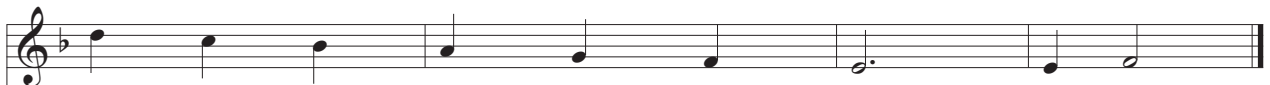


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

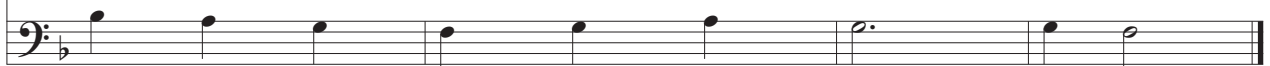
MEN



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—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.

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;
O come De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one heart and mind.

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.
Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; fill all the world with hea - ven's peace.

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

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—Isaiah 60:1-2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you. *Amen.*

Sung Response—God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen, Vs. 3

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support through chords and a steady bass line. The lyrics are: "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "let noth - ing you af - fright; This day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright, To free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might." O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

“Fear not, then,” said the an - gel, “let noth - ing you af - fright;

This day is born a Sav - ior of a pure vir - gin bright,

To free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan’s pow’r and might.”

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and joy, O tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

Text and Music: 18th century English carol.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

One of the joyous difficulties of this season is finding a way to include in the service all the wonderful hymns and carols that we only get to sing during this time of year. Of course, this is an impossible task—in just four weeks, we can only scratch the surface of the rich tradition of Advent and Christmas hymnody. This week, I'd like to draw your attention to several pieces that you may be less familiar with. *O Savior Dear, Thy Manger Here* was written by Paul Gerhardt, one of the most beloved hymn-writers in the Lutheran tradition. The gentle, lullaby-like hymn is a study in contrasts: the humble manger is a paradise of glory; He who calms the winds and seas is given to us as an infant. Similarly, David Johnson's arrangement of the American folk carol *Lovely Child, Holy Child* marvels at the image of Jesus as a baby, capturing a sense of child-like wonder with a simple rhyme scheme and glorious "blue" note in the refrain. *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* completes our trio of unfamiliar infancy related carols (not to mention the better-known ones like *What Child Is This* and *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*). The twentieth century text is given an old-world flavor by setting it to the melody *TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM*, a sixteenth century tune from the Finnish collection *Piae Cantiones*—you probably know it better as the tune for John Mason Neale's "Good King Wenceslas." Originally a melody used by a cathedral school in Finland, this stately melody has been bringing Christmas cheer for centuries. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Righteous, Law, Spirit, Salvation, Light, Reveal, Glory, Peace
Keystone Verse: Lord, now You are letting your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation. (Luke 2:29-30)



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Michael Mastroberti (973-879-1368)

Mike Miserocchi (594-3880)

Matt Morrison (482-5107)

Jason Parolini (497-3337)

John Scherrer (on sabbatical)

Jonathan Thornton (703-801-1355)

Elders Emeritus

Phil Hutcheson Steve Nelson

Deacons

Aaron Anderson (973-1797)

Jimmy Allen (on sabbatical)

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)

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