



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Advent

*11 December 2022*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Ubi caritas gaudet, ibi est festivitas.* (Glory to God in the highest and on earth, peace and good will to men. For where love rejoices, there is festivity). —John Chrysostom

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God. —C.S. Lewis

## 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 35:10

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “The ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

### Sung Response—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Vs. 1

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King;

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;

With th’an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King.”

The musical score is written for voice and piano in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

## Call to Worship—from Psalm 103:19-22

Pastor: The Lord has established His throne in the heavens.

All: **And His kingdom rules over all.**

Reader 1: Bless the Lord, O you His angels, you mighty ones who do His Word, obeying the voice of His Word!

Reader 2: Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will! Bless the Lord in all His works.

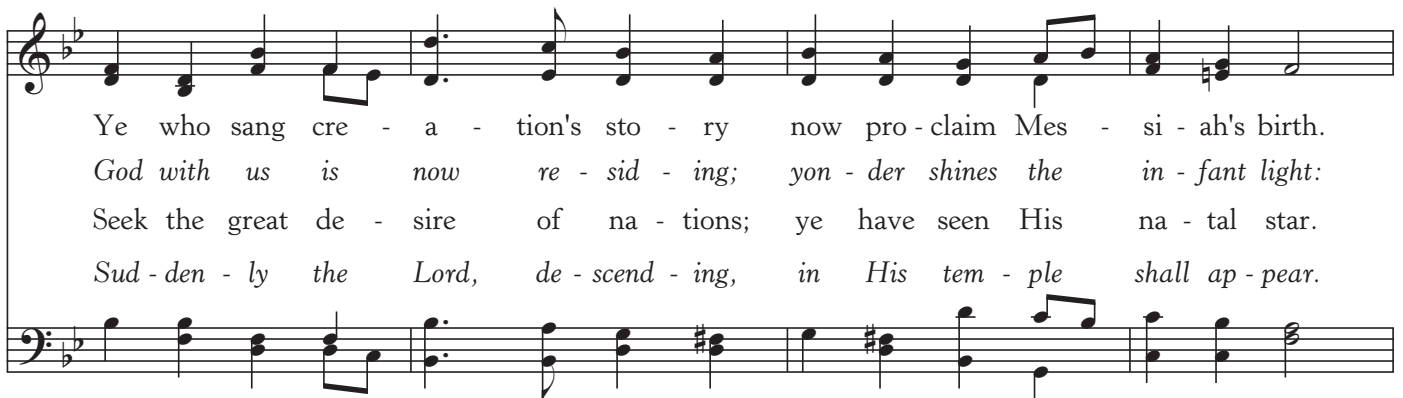
Pastor: Bless the Lord in all places of His dominion.

All: **Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

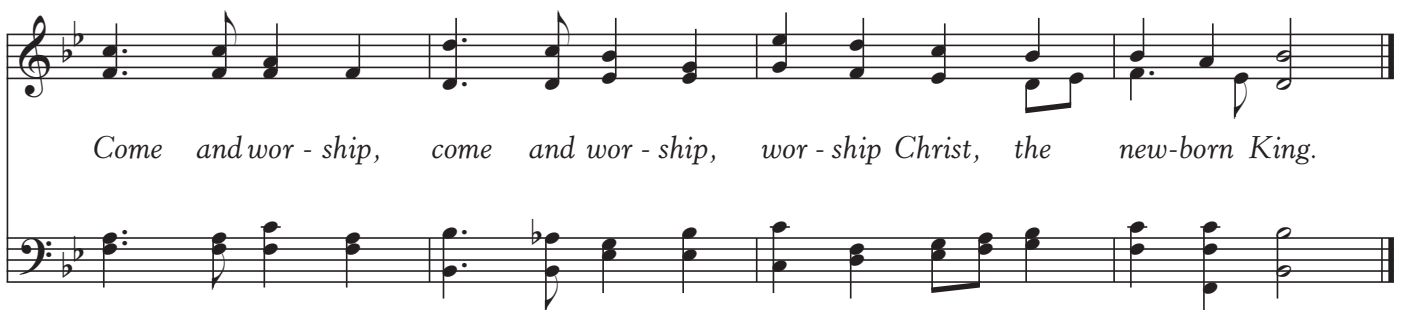
## Congregational Hymn—Angels From The Realms Of Glory



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—From Heaven On High

From Heav'n on high I come to you, I bring you ti - dings good and new;  
To you, this night, is born a Child of Mar - y, chos - en vir - gin mild;  
This is the Christ, our God and Lord, who in all need shall aid af - ford;  
Wel - come to Earth, Thou no - ble Guest, through whom the sin - ful world is blest!

Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring, where - of I now will say and sing.  
This lit - tle Child, of low - ly birth, shall be the joy of all your Earth.  
Him - self will your Sal - va - tion be, Him - self from sin will make you free.  
In my dis - tress Thou came to me, what can we ren - der, Lord, to Thee!

Text: Martin Luther, 1535, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;  
Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539.

## Scripture Reading—Psalm 103:1-6

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Hymn—The First Noel



The first No - el the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
They look - èd up and saw a star shin - ing in the east, be - yond them far;  
This star drew nigh to the north - west, ov - er Beth - le - hem it took its rest;  
Then let us all in one ac - cord sing prai - ses to our heav'n - ly Lord;



In fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
And there it did both stop and stay, right ov - er the place where Je - sus lay.  
That hath made Heav'n and Earth of naught, and with His blood man - kind hath bought.



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: Traditional English Carol; Music: THE FIRST NOEL,  
W. Sandy's *Christmas Carols*, 1833.

## Reading of the Word—Luke 2:8-14

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

## Sung Response—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Vs. 2

Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
Late in time be - hold Him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

## Sermon—*The Angels' Song: The Gloria*

—Pastor, 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—from Psalm 32:1-7; Habakkuk 3:2

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom You, O Lord, count no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

All: **When we kept silent, our bones wasted away through our groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon us.**

Pastor: Our strength was dried up.

All: **Therefore, we have acknowledged our sin to You, and we have not covered our sin. We confess our transgressions to You, O Lord, and You forgive all our iniquities.**

Pastor: We offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found.

All: **For You are our hiding place for us; You preserve us from trouble.**

Pastor: You surround us with songs of deliverance.

*(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—Psalm 103: 8-13, 17; Revelation 15:3-4

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

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, 18<sup>th</sup> 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

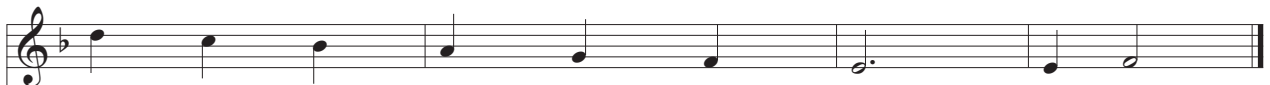


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

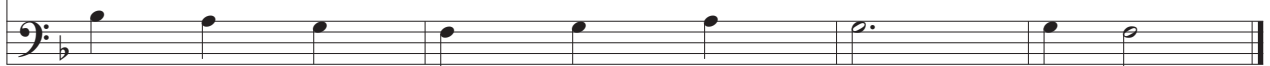
MEN



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—Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

"Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," the watch-men on the heights are cry - ing, "a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last!"  
 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, and all her heart with joy is spring - ing; she wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,  
 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, and men and an - gels sing be - fore— Thee, with harp and cym - bal's clear-est tone;

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the thrilling cry rej - oic - es: "Come forth, ye mai - dens, night is past!  
 for her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, the strong in grace in truth vic - to - rious; her Star is ris'n, her Light is come!  
 of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, where we are with the choir im - mor - tal of an - gels round Thy daz - zling throne;

The Bride - groom comes; a - wake, your lamps with glad - ness take; al - le - lu - ia! And for His mar - riage feast pre - pare,  
 Ah, come, Thou bles - sed Lord, O Je - sus, Son of God, al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low 'til the— halls we see  
 nor eye hath seen, nor ear hath yet at - tained to hear what there is ours; but we re - joice, and sing to Thee

for you must go to meet Him there."  
 where Thou hast bid us sup— with Thee.  
 our hymn of joy e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Phillipp Nicolai, 1599, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; Music: WACHET AUF, Phillipp Nicolai, 1599.

## Congregational Hymn—Silent Night

Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight!  
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light  
 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

Round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child, ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
 Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;  
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 With the an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.  
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior is born!

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1818.

# 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—Angels We Have Heard On High

An - gels, we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: Traditional French Carol; Music: GLORIA, Traditional French Melody,  
arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1937.

# 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—based on Psalm 103:17

The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting, and His righteousness to our children's children. Go forth therefore—covered by His perfect provision. Blessed Christmas. *Amen.*

## Sung Response—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Vs. 3

Hail the Heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-teous - ness!

Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Mild He lays His glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

Born to raise the sons of Earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new - born King."

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840.

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

In last Sunday's sermon text, Zechariah proclaimed how God is always working redemption for His people. This Sunday we see the fulfillment of that prophecy through yet another angel proclamation. A whole host of angels appear to the shepherds calling them to come and worship the Shepherd of their souls who will satisfy them with every good thing. God has visited and redeemed His people. The desire of every nation has arrived. Because of an infant's arrival, there is peace on earth. Because a baby was "pleased as man with men to dwell," men can now obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing flee away. Because the Light of life laid aside His glory, men join their voices with the angels to sing, "Glory to God in the highest." Throughout the Old Testament the Israelites continually asked, "How long?" The anticipation of the Messiah was long for them. This morning we sing "Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin's womb." The time seemed late to the Israelites, and as we await Christ's second coming, it may seem long to us. But even as we bend before the altar, "watching long in hope and fear," we can trust that "suddenly the Lord descending in His temple shall appear." Because the Son of God became man, we can truly join our voices with the angels the archangels and the whole company of heaven singing, "Gloria in excelsis Deo!" —Emma Marsh

**Key Words:** Angel, Glory, Good News, Great Joy, Savior, Sign, Multitude, Praising  
**Keystone Verse:** Glory to God in the highest, and earth peace. (Luke 2:14)



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### 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)	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)
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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.*