



# PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Advent

*3 December 2023*

Though creation may be a majestic organ of praise, it cannot reach the compass of the golden canticle—incarnation! There is more in that than in creation, more melody in Jesus in the manger, than there is in worlds on worlds rolling their grandeur round the throne of the Most High. —C. H. Spurgeon

## 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—Luke 1:68–69

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.

### Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 1

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let Earth re - ceive her King;

Let ev - 'ry heart pre-pare Him room, and Heav'n and na - ture sing,

And Heav'n and na - ture sing, and Heav'n, and Heav'n and na - ture sing.

ture sing and Heav'n and na - ture sing,

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef for the voice part, and a treble and bass clef for the piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

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

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Call to Worship—Psalm 113:1-4

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

All: Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!

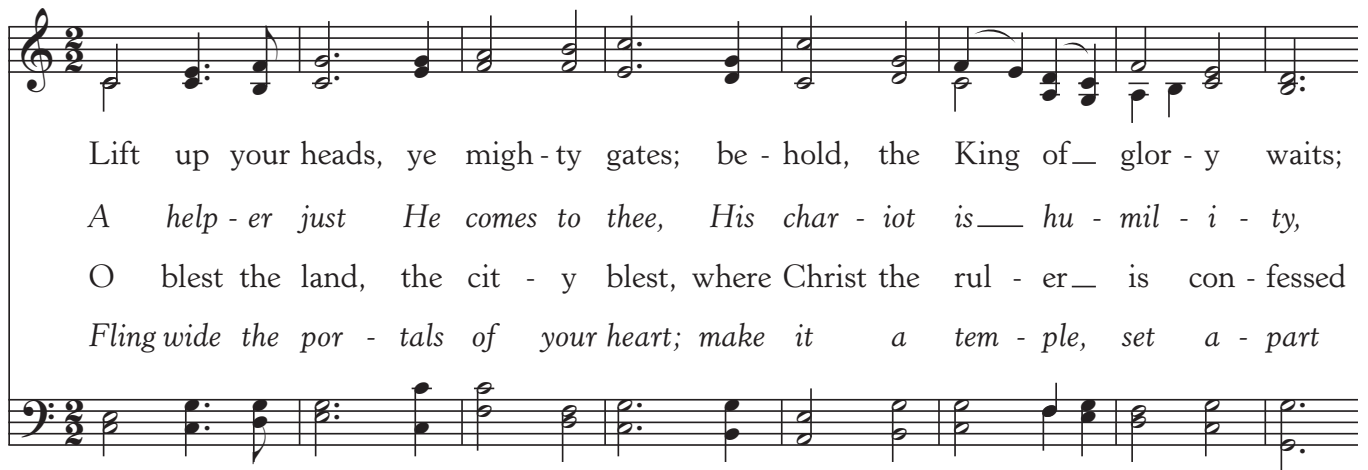
Reader 1: Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore!

Reader 2: From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!

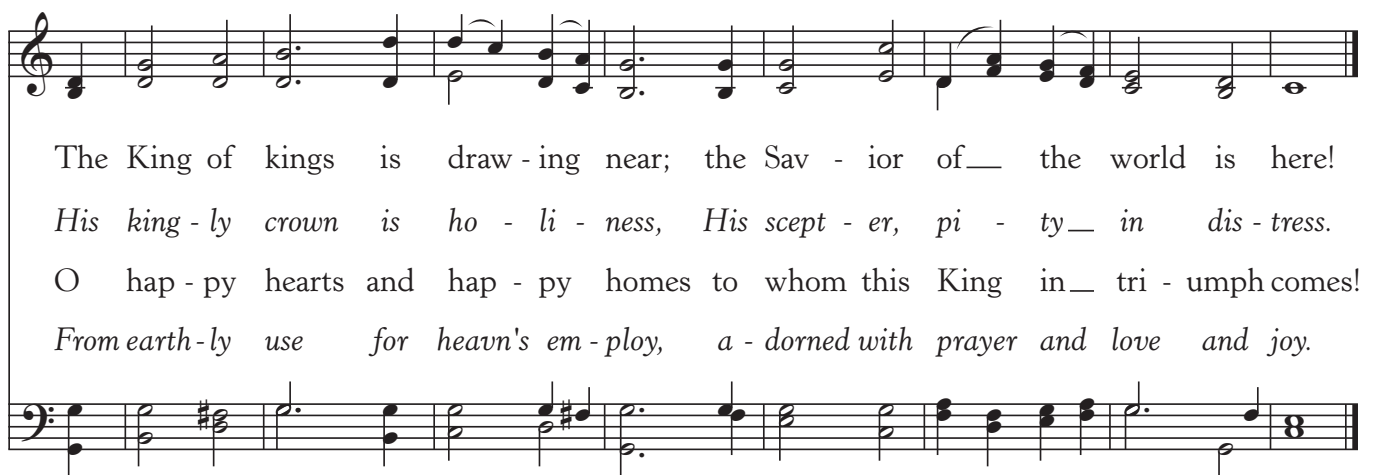
All: The Lord is high above all nations and His glory above the heavens!

Pastor: Praise the Lord!

### Congregational Hymn—Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates



Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;  
A helper just He comes to thee, His chariot is humil-ity,  
O blest the land, the city blest, where Christ the ruler is confessed  
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart



The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!  
His kingly crown is holiness, His scepter, pity in distress.  
O happy hearts and happy homes to whom this King in triumph comes!  
From earth-ly use for heav'n's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Text: based on Psalm 24, George Weessel, 1642, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1855;  
Music: TRURO, Thomas Williams, 1789.

# 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—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.

## Scripture Reading—Hebrews 2:5-9

For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, “What is man, that You are mindful of him, or the son of man, that You care for him? You made Him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned Him with glory and honor, putting everything in subjection under His feet.” Now in putting everything in subjection to Him, He left nothing outside His control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to Him. But we see Him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God He might taste death for everyone.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Congregational Hymn—All My Heart This Night Rejoices



All my heart this night re - joic - es  
 Forth to - day the Con - qu'ror go - eth,  
 He be - comes the Lamb that tak - eth  
 Come, then, ban - ish all your sad - ness



As I hear, far and near, sweet - est an - gel voic - es  
 Who the foe, sin and woe, death and hell, o'er - throw - eth  
 Sin a - way and for aye full a - tone - ment mak - eth.  
 One and all, great and small; come with songs of glad - ness.



"Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing  
 Be - came man, man to de - liv - er;  
 For our life His own He ten - ders;  
 Love Him who with love is glow - ing;



Till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.  
 The dear Son now is one with our blood for - ev - er.  
 And our race, by His grace, meet for glo - ry ren - ders.  
 Hail the star, from a - far, light and joy be - stow - ing.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858, alt. 2018;  
 Music: WARUM SOLLT' ICH MICH DENN GRAMEN, Johann Ebeling, 1666.

## Reading of the Word—Psalm 8:1-9

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth! You have set Your glory above the heavens.  
<sup>2</sup> Out of the mouth of babies and infants, You have established strength because of Your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.<sup>3</sup> When I look at Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place,<sup>4</sup> what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You care for him?<sup>5</sup> Yet You have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.<sup>6</sup> You have given him dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,<sup>7</sup> all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,<sup>8</sup> the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.<sup>9</sup> O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## Sung Response—Joy To The World, Vs. 4



He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove



The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness and won - ders of His love,



And won - ders of His love, and won - ders, won - ders of His love.

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

## Sermon—*The Majestic Incarnation*

—Assistant Pastor, Mike Fennema

## 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 Romans 1:19-23, Luke 18:13

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. What can be known about You is plain to us because You have shown it to us.

**All: Your invisible attributes have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that You have made.**

Pastor: We have known You, but we have not honored You as God or given thanks to You.

**All: We have become futile in our thinking, and our foolish hearts have been darkened.**

Pastor: We claim to be wise, but we are fools.

**All: We have exchanged Your glory for images, resembling men and birds and animals, and creeping things.**

*(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—Galatians 4:3-5; Revelation 15:3-4

In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

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

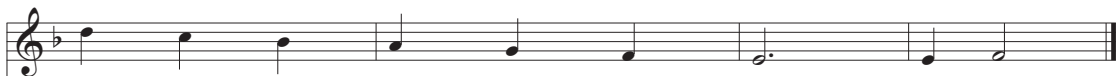


We praise You, we bless You, we wor-ship You, we glo-ri-fy You,

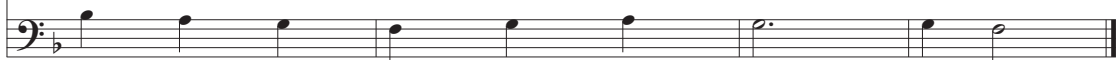
MEN



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—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—Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and trem - bling stand;  
King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on Earth He stood,  
Rank on rank the host of Heav - en spreads its van - guard on the way,  
At His feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim, with sleep - less eye,



Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed, for with bless - ing in His hand,  
Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture, in the bod - y and the blood,  
As the Light of light de - scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,  
Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our Lord to Earth de - scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.  
He will give to all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.  
That the pow'rs of Hell may van - ish as the dark - ness clears a - way.  
"Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5<sup>th</sup> century, alt. Gerard Moultrie, 1864; Music: PICARDY, French melody, 17<sup>th</sup> 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—Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy peo - ple free;  
Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

From our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in Thee.  
Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth Thou art,  
By Thine own e - ter - nal spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1745; Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855.

# 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—Joy To The World, Vs. 3

The musical score is written for voice and piano in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: "No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found. is found, Far as the curse is found".

No more let sins and sorrows 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

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

is found, Far as the curse is found

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

## Announcements

## Worship Notes:

Advent is usually observed as a season of confession, preparation, and anticipation, looking forward to the birth of Christ on Christmas Day. You'll notice several added elements in the service this morning: lighting of candles during the Call to Worship, purple accents on the bulletin and the pulpit, and a time of silent prayer followed by a sung response where we cry out, "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us." We have also included an insert in the bulletin with a series of daily scripture readings for Advent, which you can use at home with your family. As we enter this new season, I hope these added elements help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus—the long-expected Savior who, though He was rich beyond all splendor, became poor for our sake, and came to make His blessings flow as far as the curse is found. —Henry C. Haffner

**Key Words:** Lord, Majestic, Glory, Man, Mindful, Care, Crowned

**Keystone verse:** Oh Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the Earth! (Psalm 8:1a,9)



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### Elders

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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)

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Robert Simmons (850-532-1075)

Nae Soundara (519-3720)

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