



PARISH

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Advent

10 December 2023

The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory—because at the Father’s will Jesus became poor, and was born in a stable so that thirty years later He might hang on a cross. —J.I. Packer

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—Matthew 1:21

Good news. Glad tidings. Great joy. “You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Sung Response—What Child Is This, Vs. 1



What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y’s lap is sleep - ing?



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing:



Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mar-y.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English Carol.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Call to Worship—Psalm 98:1-4

Pastor: Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

All: His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.

Reader 1: The Lord has made known His salvation; He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Reader 2: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Pastor: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Congregational Hymn—Once In Royal David's City

Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
He came down to Earth from Heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own re - deem - ing love,
Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

Where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for His bed:
And His shel - ter was a sta - ble, and His cra - dle was a stall:
For that Child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in Heav'n a - bove;
We shall see Him, but in Heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
With the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on Earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
And He leads His child - ren on — to the place where He is gone.
When like stars His chil - dren crowned — all in white shall wait a - round.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the lines of the vocal and bass staves. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and dynamic markings. The final system ends with a double bar line.

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—O Little Town Of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, des - cend to us we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
While mor - tals sleep the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels, the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on Earth.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1867; Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1868.

Baptism of Arabella Scheenstra, daughter of Joshua and Marta Scheenstra

Scripture Reading—Hebrews 2:10-16

For it was fitting that He, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering. For He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brothers, saying, “I will tell of Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the congregation, I will sing Your praise.” And again, “I will put My trust in Him.” And again, “Behold, I and the children God has given Me.” Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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

Reading of the Word—Psalm 22:1-31

“My God, my God, why have You forsaken me? Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ²O my God, I cry by day, but You do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet You are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ⁴In You our fathers trusted; they trusted, and You delivered them. ⁵To You they cried and were rescued; in You they trusted and were not put to shame. ⁶But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by mankind and despised by the people. ⁷All who see me mock me; they make mouths at me; they wag their heads; ⁸“He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!” ⁹Yet You are He who took me from the womb; You made me trust You at my mother's breasts. ¹⁰On You was I cast from my birth, and from my mother's womb You have been my God. ¹¹Be not far from me, for trouble is near, and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me; strong bulls of Bashan surround me; ¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion. ¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast; ¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; You lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet—¹⁷I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me; ¹⁸they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. ¹⁹But You, O Lord, do not be far off! O You my help, come quickly to my aid! ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dog! ²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion! You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You: ²³You who fear the Lord, praise Him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify Him, and stand in awe of Him, all you offspring of Israel! ²⁴For He has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and He has not hidden His face from him, but has heard, when he cried to Him. ²⁵From You comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear Him. ²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek Him shall praise the Lord! May your hearts live forever!

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before You. ²⁸ For kingship belongs to the Lord, and He rules over the nations. ²⁹ All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship; before Him shall bow all who go down to the dust, even the one who could not keep himself alive. ³⁰ Posterity shall serve Him; it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation; ³¹ they shall come and proclaim His righteousness to a people yet unborn, that He has done it.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—What Child Is This, Vs. 2



Why lies He in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English Carol.

Sermon—*The Glory of the Suffering Savior*

—Associate Pastor, Brian Phillips

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 130:1-4, 7

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Out of the depths we cry to You, O Lord! Let Your ears be attentive to voice of our pleas for mercy!

All: If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, who could stand?

Pastor: But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.

All: For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with Him is plentiful redemption.

(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—Ephesians 1:7-10; Revelation 15:3-4

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of His will, according to His purpose, which He set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in Him, things in heaven and things on earth.

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,

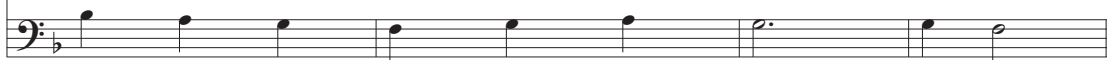
MEN



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—For What Did Christ The Babe Appear



For what did Christ, the babe, ap - pear, fash - ioned in an earth - ly style?
For what did Christ, the babe, ap - pear, and His Fa - ther's will o - bey?
For what did Christ, the babe, ap - pear, of - fering His most pre - cious blood?



And rest with - in___ a man - ger here, Im - man - u - el, a heaven - ly child?
From Jor - dan's wa - ters in ho - ly fear,___ to the cross___ what was gained?
And once or - dain that I should hear,___ plac - ing me with - in the flood?



This, fore - told in an - cient times! This th'an - ge - lic hosts now sing,
All is gained by Him a - lone. All the law is sat - is - fied.
In the flood of Gos - pel light, clear and pure as shin - ing star,



Glo - ry un - to God on high, the Child of Peace is born a King!
All o - bed - ience to the throne!___ He, the per - fect sac - ri - fice.
Fast I stand with end in sight;___ dis - tant yet, though not a - far.

Text & Music: Nathan George, 2009.

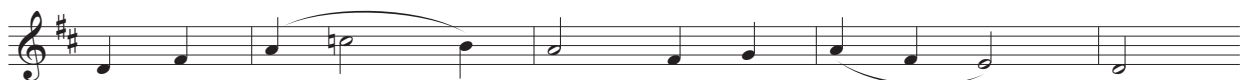
Congregational Hymn—Lovely Child, Holy Child



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 Hymn—See, Amid The Winter's Snow

See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
Lo, with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies:
Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, what a ten - der love was Thine,
Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, by Thy face so meek and mild,

See the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
He who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
Thus to come from high - est bliss down to such a world as this!
Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee, in Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems of vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The first system covers the first four lines of lyrics, and the second system covers the next four lines. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, supporting the vocal line.

Refrain

Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

The refrain is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp. It consists of two systems of vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The piano accompaniment is primarily chordal, supporting the vocal line.

Text: Edward Caswall, 1851; Music: HUMILITY, John Goss, 1870.

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—2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *Amen.*

Sung Response—What Child Is This, Vs. 3

So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own Him;

The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mar - y.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

Text: William Chatterton Dix, 1865; Music: GREENSLEEVES, 16th Century English Carol.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

This morning we read Psalm 22, and at a first glance, it does not seem to fit well with the cheery, heartwarming tones of Advent to which we are accustomed. Yet somehow this nativity picture and the solemn tones of Psalm 22 fit hand in hand. This infant, whose arrival we celebrate, came to fulfill the promise God made with Adam and Eve in the garden. For years the Israelites longed for a deliverer. Now, in the silent streets of Bethlehem, the fulfillment of God's trustworthy promise lay swaddled in a manger. There lay the fulfillment of the hopes and fears of all the years. The King of kings brought salvation and lived with the poor and mean and lowly. Nails and spear pierced Him through, and He bore the cross for us. As we long for our victorious Deliverer's second coming, we adore Him along with the angels singing: "Alleluia!" "Hail redemption's happy dawn!" "Christ the babe is Lord of all!" —Emma Marsh

Key Words: Forsaken, Cry, Trust, Deliver, Save, Affliction, Praise, Fear, God, Brothers, Nations

Keystone verse: My God, my God, why have You forsaken me. Why are You so far from saving me, from the words of my groanings. (Psalm 22:1)



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