

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.  
Please silence your mobile devices.*

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Horn Concerto No. 2 in E-flat Major" . . . . . W.A. Mozart

*Allegro and Rondo  
Dan Phillips, horn and Chamber Orchestra*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE. . . . . Ann and Wilson Barton

CHORAL INTROIT: "How Great Our Joy" . . . . . arr. John Rutter

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy!*

*Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!*

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a Child today.

There shall the Child lie in a stall, this Child Who shall redeem us all.

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.

*The Chancel Choir  
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Timothy L. Russell

✦HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 193: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" . . . . . PICARDY

✦FIRST PROPHETIC READING: Malachi 3:1-4. . . . . Margaret S. Stephens

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me.  
And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple;

**and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight,  
behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.**

But who can endure the day of his coming,  
and who can stand when he appears?

**For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.**

He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,  
and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver,  
and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

**Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem  
will be pleasing to the Lord  
as in the days of old and as in former years.**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE. . . . . PICARDY

**With the blessed hope before us,  
Let no harp remain unstrung;  
Let the mighty advent chorus  
Onward roll from tongue to tongue:  
"Christ is coming soon!  
The Lord is coming soon!  
Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!"**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob" . . . . . Mendelssohn

There shall a star come out of Jacob,  
And a sceptre shall rise out of Israel,  
With might destroying princes and cities.

As bright as the star of morning gleams,  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
Of light and consolation.  
Thy Word, O Lord, radiance darting,  
Truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . FINLANDIA

**Christians, awake, salute the happy morn,  
Where on the Savior of the world was born;  
Rise to adore the mystery of love,  
Which hosts of angels chanted from above;  
With them the joyful tidings first begun  
Of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.**

**Then may we hope, th'angelic throngs among,  
To sing, redeemed, a glad triumphal song;  
He that was born upon this joyful day  
Around us all His glory shall display;  
Saved by His love, incessant we shall sing  
Eternal praise to heav'n's almighty King.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION . . . . . Dan G. Burns

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN . . . . . Andrew E. Keasling

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

GOSPEL READING . . . . . Matthew 1:18-25  
(page 807 in pew Bible)

All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field;

**The grass withers, the flower fades,  
but the Word of our God will stand forever. Amen.** (Isaiah 40:6b, 8)

HOMILY *You Shall Call His Name Jesus* Sanders L. Willson

## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*All those who have publicly professed their faith and joined a Christian church as a communing member are warmly welcomed to receive communion today. Non-communing worshipers are encouraged to contemplate the love of Jesus Christ during this time. At Second Presbyterian, we encourage our children not to take communion until they have joined the church as communicant members.*

*We do, however, encourage non-communing children to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing.*

*Those wishing to be served communion together as a group or family, please stand together in front of the two serving elders before taking the elements.*

✦PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH . . . . . The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,  
begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,  
by Whom all things were made;  
Who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man,  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,  
and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
and He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead;  
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,  
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son;  
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;  
Who spoke by the prophets;  
and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church;  
we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;  
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

✦GLORIA PATRI . . . . . GREATOR EX

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, Amen!**

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, Who rules over all the earth,  
and Who judges every transgression of every person,  
we acknowledge and bemoan our many sins against You  
and against our neighbor:  
we have arrogantly ignored Your commandments  
and have foolishly violated Your precepts.  
We have loved neither You nor our neighbor as we ought,  
and we have no excuse.  
Please forgive all our trespasses and sins  
and create within us clean hearts and submissive spirits  
that we may unceasingly praise and glorify Your Name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION AND 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.**

THE COMMUNION OF BREAD AND CUP

*For those unable to come forward for communion, please raise your hand and an elder will serve you in your seat.*

*Throughout this time of communion, we invite you to join in singing the hymns below.*

“Of the Father’s Love Begotten” . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Of the Father’s Love begotten ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the Source, the Ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer, first revealed His sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**This is He Whom heav’n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,  
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful Word;  
Now He shines, the long-expected; let creation praise its Lord,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**O ye heights of heav’n adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing;  
All dominions, bow before Him and extol our God and King;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, ev’ry voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!**

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” . . . . . ST. LOUIS

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by:  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond’ring love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv’n!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav’n.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

“Fairest Lord Jesus” . . . . . CRUSADER’S HYMN

**Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,  
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.**

**Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands,  
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,  
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.**

**Fair is the sunshine, fair is the moonlight,  
And all the twinkling, starry host:  
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer  
Than all the angels heav’n can boast.**

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations!  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration,  
Now and forevermore be Thine.**

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" ..... CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all gracious King;"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heav'nly music floats o'er all the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hov'ring wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold;  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦HYMN OF MISSION: No. 224 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" ..... GO TELL IT

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Postlude on 'Mendelssohn'" ..... D. Willcocks

✦Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

*Instrumentalists: Paul Turnbow, Long Long Kang, Betty Eubank, Milena Albrecht, and Sara Chiego, strings; Dee Walker and Jenny Compton, flute; Wendy Grew, oboe; Rena Feller and Jim Gholson, clarinet; Dan Phillips, horn; Chris Burgess, timpani; Lenora Morrow, organ*

*We consider it a privilege to have our children in worship with us. If your small children become restless and vocal, we invite you to the children's room especially designed for them at the rear of the Sanctuary. They are also welcome in the nursery. Older children should also be encouraged to come to church prepared to stay in their pew throughout the service.*

*One of our pastors will be available after the service to pray for you or to offer helpful direction regarding your spiritual life. He will be in the Gathering Room, which is the first room on your left as you exit the southwest door of the Sanctuary (closest to the pulpit). You may also send your confidential email to [pastor@2pc.org](mailto:pastor@2pc.org) with questions about your spiritual life.*

# FESTIVAL of CAROLS

**Tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**

This annual service features many seasonal favorites along with *This Christmastide, God Rest You Merry Gentlemen, The First Nowell, and Sussex Carol*. Congregational carols will include *O Come, All Ye Faithful, O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, Joy to the World*, and many others!

This year, we have added a special interactive bulletin for children: illustrations to color, words to help them sing along, and fun facts about the carols. Join us!

*Nursery is provided for ages 4 and under.*