



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2011
11:00 p.m.


Second
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Liturgy of the Word

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

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "Sleep of the Infant Jesus" Henri Büsser

CHORAL INTROIT: "Nativity" Traditional Welsh Carol

All poor men and humble, all lame men who stumble,
Come haste ye, nor feel ye afraid; for Jesus, our treasure,
With love past all measure, in lowly poor manger was laid.

Though wise men who found Him laid rich gifts around Him,
Yet oxen they gave Him their hay: and Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty; contented in manger He lay.

Then haste we to show Him the praises we owe Him;
Our service He ne'er can despise: Whose love still is able
To show us that stable where softly in manger He lay.

*The Westminster Singers
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP T. Barton Kimbro

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

No. 162 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*stanza 1: Marjorie Bowman, soloist
stanza 2: The Westminster Singers
stanzas 3-4: Congregation*

✦LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Terri and Mike Theil, Lauren and Katie

✦READING FROM THE PENTATEUCH: Genesis 1:1-3 Lucy Foster
(page 1 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**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.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

✦READING FROM THE GOSPELS: John 1:1-18 Rob Dickinson
(page 886 in pew Bible)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

SOLO RESPONSE: "O Holy Night" Adolph Adam

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the Soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
Over the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Here come the wise men from the Orient land.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
O night, O night divine.

Terri Theil, soloist

READING FROM THE APOCALYPSE: Revelation 21:1-4, 22-27 Barr Overcast
(page 1041 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

True Light in the Darkness

Sanders L. Willson

The Liturgy of the Table

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

✦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**

✦HYMN OF INVITATION: No. 208 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION Michael R. Gatliff

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

LITANY OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is meet and right and our joyful duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and we praise You, King of Heaven, for Your lowly humility and Your infinite love whereby You have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light;

**Therefore with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,
we laud and magnify Your glorious Name,
evermore praising You and saying:**

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est, Ho - san - na in the high-est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

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.

SHARING OF THE 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 following hymns.

"O Come, Let Us Adore Him" ADESTE FIDELES

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

"Away in a Manger" MUELLER

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes;
I love Thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.**

SOLO MEDITATION: "Gesu Bambino" Pietro Yon

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows,
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glow
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of love and light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sarah Jenkins, soloist

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" . . . QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

**Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.**

**Thou Who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou Who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.**

**Thou Who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou Who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear Desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day-spring from on high, appear;
Come, Thou promised Rod of Jesse, of Thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news, glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to Him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Come to earth to taste our sadness, He whose glories knew no end;
By His life He brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a Child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH

HYMN OF PEACE. STILLE NACHT

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

♠HYMN OF GLORY: "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE. GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis deo. Gloria in excelsis deo.

MEDITATION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Sussex Carol" Robin Milford

♠Indicates congregation standing

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Instrumentalists: Long Long Kang, violin; Marian Shaffer, harp; Lenora Morrow, organ