

Order *for the* Public
Worship *of* God

January 8, 2012, 11:00 a.m.



Fellowship of the Word

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

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Antiphon V, How Fair and Pleasant Art Thou" . . . Marcel Dupre
Molly Johnson, guest organist

CHORAL INTROIT: "He Comes to Us as One Unknown" REPTON

He comes to us as one unknown,
A breath unseen, unheard;
As though within a heart of stone,
Or shriveled seed in darkness sown,
A pulse of being stirred.

He comes in love as once He came
By flesh and blood and birth;
To bear within our mortal frame
A life, a death, a saving name
For every child of earth.

CALL TO WORSHIP Darrin S. Anthony

✦HYMN OF EPIPHANY: No. 226 "As with Gladness Men of Old" DIX
stanzas 1-4

✦FIRST GOSPEL READING: Matthew 2:1-12. Christopher M. Taylor

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying,

**"Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?
For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."**

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

**They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea,
for so it is written by the prophet:
"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."**

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way.

**And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose
went before them until it came to rest
over the place where the child was.
When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.**

And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.

**Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.**

And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE DIX

**In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "There's a Song in the Air" Ronald E. Boud
Text by Josiah Holland

There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,
For the virgin's sweet boy is the Lord of the earth.
And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!

In the light of that star lies redemption unfurled;
And that song from afar has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.
And we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CANONBURY

**All praise to Thee, eternal Lord,
Clothed in a garb of flesh and blood;
Choosing a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.**

**All this for us Thy love hath done;
By this to Thee our love is won:
For this we tune our cheerful lays,
And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Michael R. Gatliff

✦ GREETINGS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

GOSPEL READING Mark 1:1-13
(page 836 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)

SERMON *Prepare the Way of the Lord* Sanders L. Willson

Fellowship 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.

✦PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead;**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

✦GLORIA PATRI GREATOREX

**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 has sent Your One and Only Son to be Messiah
that we may be rescued from our sin,
we acknowledge our need of being saved,
for we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,
both in what we have done
and in what we have left undone.
We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent.
Please forgive us,
cleanse our consciences of all guilt
and renew our spirits that we may cheerfully serve You,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

LITANY OF PRAISE

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up unto the Lord.
Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our joyful duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto You, O Holy Lord, Father Almighty, Everlasting God. And we praise You for Jesus Christ our Lord, Who has come to bring us light and life;

**Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
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

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.**

HYMN OF APPROACH 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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

INSTRUMENTAL REFLECTION "Nothing But the Blood" arr. Paul Jones

*What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*For my cleansing this I see — nothing but the blood of Jesus;
For my pardon this my plea — nothing but the blood of Jesus.
O precious is the flow that makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know, nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

SHARING OF THE CUP

INSTRUMENTAL REFLECTION: "He Comes to Us as One Unknown" . . . arr. Paul Jones

*He comes when souls in silence lie
And thoughts of day depart,
Half-seen upon the inward eye,
A falling star across the sky
Of night within the heart.*

*He comes to us in sound of seas,
The ocean's fume and foam;
Yet small and still upon the breeze,
A wind that stirs the tops of trees,
A voice to call us home.*

*He comes in truth when faith is grown;
Believed, obeyed, adored:
The Christ in all the scriptures shown,
As yet unseen, but not unknown,
Our Savior, and our Lord.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦HYMN OF PRAISE CRUSADER'S HYMN

**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.**

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "God of Grace, God of Glory" Paul Manz

✦Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

Vocal Ensemble: Annie Petzinger, Marjorie Bowman, Christy Young, Terri Theil, Nicole Swain, Robert Sutton, Keith Young, Jerry Bowman, Brett Trimble; Gabriel C. Statom, director/piano; Dee Walker, flute

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 with questions about your spiritual life.

Sunday Night Worship - 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

We gather each Sunday evening for an informal service of prayer, praise and teaching from God's Word. Our morning and evening services frame our weekly Lord's Day worship. We invite you to worship with us.