



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2013
8:00 p.m.



The Liturgy of the Word

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

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

You are invited to pray, perhaps including the following prayer, as you prepare for worship.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy Him perfectly in heaven, where with You and the Holy Spirit He lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

ORGAN PRELUDE: "O Come All Ye Faithful" J.F. Wade
Lenora Morrow, Organist

STRINGS PRELUDE: "Larghetto from Serenade for Strings" Edward Elgar

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Keith, Christy, Laura, and Lizzy Young

CHORAL INTROIT: "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" 17th Century German

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angel choirs, Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in one: Alleluia!

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

CALL TO WORSHIP Ronald G. Sadlow

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 225 "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

*stanza 1: Claire Schneider, soloist
stanza 2: Choir
stanzas 3-5: Congregation*

✦THE FIRST GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 Millie Bellott
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE IRBY

**Glory be to God the Father, and to Christ, His only Son.
Glory to the Holy Spirit, who makes known the Three in One.
On this night, we bow and pray,
To the One who came to save.**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Our special offering today is for the Caring Ministry Fund. This fund assists those in need among our members and in our community. If you would like to contribute, please use the special envelope in the pew rack or mark your check "Caring Ministry Fund."

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "O Magnum Mysterium" Morton Lauridsen

<i>O magnum mysterium,</i>	O great mystery,
<i>Et admirabile sacramentum</i>	And wondrous sacrament,
<i>Ut animalia viderent Dominum</i>	That animals should see the
<i>Natum, jacentem in praesepio!</i>	Newborn Lord, lying in their manger!
<i>Beata Virgo, cujus viscera</i>	Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
<i>Meruerunt portare</i>	Was worthy to bear the
<i>Dominum Christum. Alleluia!</i>	Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE SEE AMID THE WINTER'S SNOW

**See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Dan G. Burns

✦ GREETINGS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

THE SECOND GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:8-20 Courtney Billions
(page 857 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 *He Has Come* 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.

Gluten free communion bread is available upon request from the elder at the east side of the transverse aisle (opposite from the door leading to the Connector).

✦ PROFESSION OF 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.**

**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 inhabits eternity
but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:
before You and our Lord Jesus Christ
we confess our sins.
We have ignored the presence of Your Spirit.
We have failed to look for the return
of our Savior and Judge.
We have been blind to Your coming
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.
In Your great goodness
put away our offenses
and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. 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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE 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 printed in bold below.

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Myn Lyking" R.R. Terry
15th Century Old English

I saw a fair maiden sitten and sing;
She lulled a little child, a sweete Lording.

*Lullay my liking,
My dear son, my sweeting;
Lullay my dear heart,
Mine own dear darling.*

That same Lord is he that made all thing;
Of all lords he is Lord of all kinges, King.

There was mickle (much) melody at that childe's birth:
All that were in heav'nly bliss, they made mickle mirth.

Angels bright sang their song to that childe;
"Blessed be thou and so be she, so meek and so mild."

“Away in a Manger” MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid 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.**

“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
Heavenward 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.**

CHORAL MEDITATION: “Still, Still, Still” Traditional German Carol
arr. Mack Wilberg

Still, still, still, the Child’s eyes softly close.
And Mary, breathless, draws Him, weeping,
To her heart made pure for keeping.
Still, still, still, His bright eyes softly close.

Sing, sing, sing. He hears and sweetly smiles.
And kneeling Joseph joins in chorus
With the angels bending o’er us.
Sing, sing, sing. He hears and sweetly smiles.

Sleep, sleep, O sleep. He breathes a tender sigh,
For soon He’ll wake the wake from slumber,
Bringing life and endless wonder,
Sleep, sleep, O sleep. He breathes a tender sigh.
Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep, sleep, sleep.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LIGHTING OF THE CHURCH

HYMN OF CHRIST'S BIRTH: "Silent Night! Holy Night!" 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 JOY No. 195: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" ANTIOCH

♣BENEDICTION

♣CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come" arr. W.H. Bates

♣Indicates congregation standing

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Paraments

The season of the Christ Child is represented by a brilliant golden star, the star that appeared in the East. Its radiant beams streaming downward toward earth are embroidered upon a Pulpit Scarf of white needlepoint, symbolizing purity. Upon each white Bible Marker is the Chi Rho, creatively designed with a horizontal bar over the top of the two cross bars of Chi, suggesting a manger, intersected by the vertical symbol, Rho.

These paraments will hang until Epiphany Day, January 6.



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