



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 29, 2013



Worshipping Our King

*We gather as God's people to offer joyful praise to our King.
We convene with reverence and awe, preparing ourselves to join with the communion of saints.*

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

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

Almighty God, You have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word:
Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORGAN IMPROVISATION: "How Great Our Joy" JUNGST

Gabriel C. Statom, organ

HARP PRELUDE: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN
"Carol of the Bells" Trad. Ukrainian

Marian Shaffer, harp

INTROIT: "Wexford Carol" Traditional Irish Carol, 12th century

Good people all, this Christmastide,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn
There was a blessed Messiah born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the Babe to find,
And, as God's angel had foretold,
They did our Saviour, Christ, behold.
Within a manger he was laid,
And by his side the virgin maid,
Attending on the Lord of life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Ginger Statom and Eva Gibson, sopranos

CALL TO WORSHIP Michael G. Stokke

♠HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 215 "While by the Sheep We Watched at Night" JUNGST

♠OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: I Chronicles 16:28-36 Christopher M. Taylor (8:15)
Jay L. Cofield (11:00)

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering and come before him!**

Worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth;

**yes, the world is established;
it shall never be moved.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice,
and let them say among the nations, "The Lord reigns!"

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it!**

Then shall the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

**Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!**

Say also: "Save us, O God of our salvation,
and gather and deliver us from among the nations,

**that we may give thanks to your holy name
and glory in your praise.**

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting!"

**Then all the people said, "Amen!"
and praised the Lord.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE JUNGST

**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!**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

Renewing Our Faith

*Our faith is renewed as we publicly confess the truth of God,
joining our hearts and voices in prayers and hymns of praise to Him.*

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.
When we reduce Christmas to a materialistic affair,
have mercy on us, Father.
When hardness of heart keeps us from the wonder of our Savior's birth,
let Your grace consume us, O God.
When the wars around us are of no concern,
forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer.
When our caring is not extended to action,
move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.
We come to confess our sinfulness before You and before each other.
Remove all barriers that divide us,
and let there be no obstacle to our love for You and for one another.
For we pray in the name of our Prince of Peace, Amen!**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

HARP MEDITATION: "Interlude" from *Ceremony of Carols* Benjamin Britten

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

God has caused light to shine in our hearts,
the light that is knowledge of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ.
based on 2 Corinthians 4:6

✦ HYMN OF ADORATION: No. 219 "All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord" CANONBURY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS.....Gerry A. Peak

OFFERTORY SOLO: "The Lute Carol"..... Mary E. Caldwell
text by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heav'nly King?
Awake the voice, awake the string!

Heart, ear, and eye, and everything awake!
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room to welcome Him,
To do Him honor, who's our King and Lord
Of all this rejoicing!

Eva Gibson, soloist

♠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CRANHAM

In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
What ___ can I give him, poor ___ as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone.
If I were a shep - herd, I would give a lamb.

Snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow ___ on ___ snow.
If I were a wise ___ man I would do my part.

In the bleak mid - win - ter, long ___ a - go.
What I can I give Him, give ___ my heart.

♠ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

♠ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) Gabriel C. Statom

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION 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.**

Offering Our Obedience

*God speaks through the reading and preaching of the Holy Scriptures,
and we respond with grateful submission and loving service.*

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ecclesiastes 3:1-8
(page 554 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 *Time Matters* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF HIS BIRTH: No. 224 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”GO TELL IT

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Improvisation on “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”GO TELL IT

✦Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

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.

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.

The Paraments will hang on Christmas Eve and until Epiphany Day, January 6.