



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2015 · 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.*

ORGAN PRELUDE:

Toccata Prelude on "From Heaven Above I Come to You" Garth Edmunson

STRING PRELUDE: "Pastorale" from *Christmas Concerto* Arcangelo Corelli

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE.....Kirsten and Charlie Scheel

CALL TO WORSHIP David A. Bowen

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

stanza 1: Coley Stout, soloist

stanza 2: Choir

stanzas 3-5: Congregation

✦FIRST GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 Sarah Lewis
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE..... IRBY

**Know ye not that lowly baby was the bright and morning Star?
He Who came to light the Gentiles and the darkened isles afar?
And we, too, our treasures bring for our Savior, God, and King.**

✦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: "What Sweeter Music"..... John Rutter
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!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day
That sees December turn'd to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quick'ning birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know Him ours, Who, with His sunshine and His show'rs,
Turns the patient ground to flow'rs.
The Darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him.
The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honor who's our King, and Lord of all this revelling.

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing,
The birth of this our heav'nly King?

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

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 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.

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.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION Gerry A. Peak

✦ GREETINGS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-35. Grace Jorgensen
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to Christ.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "Nunc Dimittis" Charles Stanford

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

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.

HOMILY *The Canticles of Christmas: Nunc Dimittis* 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 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.**

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

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and most merciful Father,
we bow before Your majestic holiness
conscious of our need of Your pardoning grace.
We ask forgiveness...
for our lack of awe and wonder in worship,
for our failure to know, trust and rest in Your promises,
for our impatience and distress
while waiting for Your answers to our prayers,
and for our aversion to embracing the cost of following our Savior.
Thank You for appointing Jesus to rescue us
and to bring us safely to His everlasting kingdom.
We make our prayer in His glorious name, Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

LITANY OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

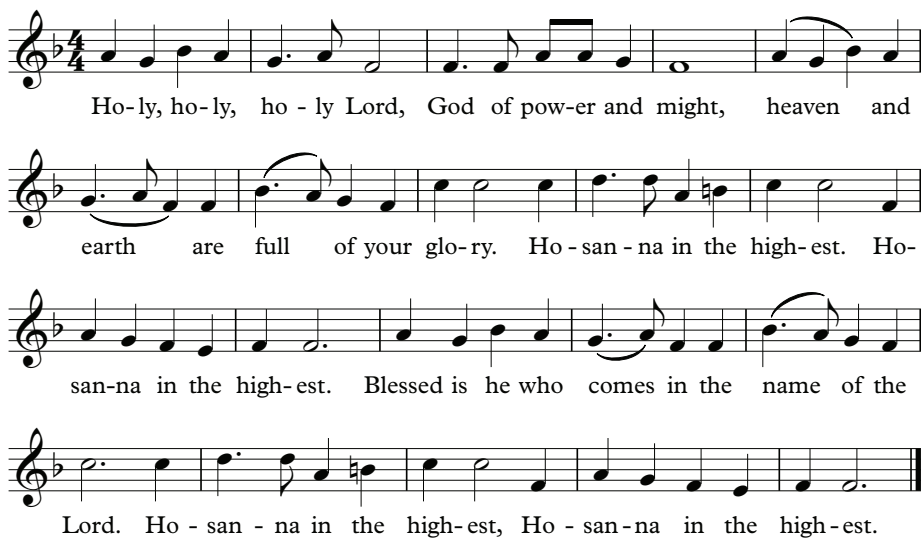
We lift them up unto the Lord.

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:**



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 hymn in bold on the next panel.

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Love Came Down at Christmas" Text by Christina Rossetti Music by John Rutter

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.
Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?
Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

“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!**

SILENT MEDITATION

✦HYMN OF JOY No. 214: “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: “Nunc Dimittis” CAROL

**Lord, bid Your servant go in peace; Your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation’s dawn, this child so long foretold.
This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles’ promised light,
God’s glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on “Joy to the World!” Michael Dell