



ORDER FOR THE  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

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December 13, 2015  
*Third Sunday of Advent*



## A WORD ON WORSHIP

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please prepare your heart for worship  
and silence your mobile devices.*

*Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us;  
and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins,  
let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.*

The above prayer of preparation succinctly reminds us of three truths:

**First of all, Jesus is among us.** Let us not take it for granted that Jesus Christ comes among his church when we gather for worship. Hebrews 2:12 tells us what He does when He comes: “I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.” Let us pray that the Lord would come among us and make Himself, His name and His works known to us in life-transforming ways.

**Secondly, we are sorely hindered by sin.** Our sin greatly offends God because it causes us to turn our loyalty, energy, and desire away from God to other things and people. Therefore, it is imperative that we take time in corporate worship to confess our sins (1 John 1:9) and forsake them (Proverbs 29:13). This exercise causes Jesus and His gospel to become more beautiful and precious to us.

**Thirdly, God’s grace and mercy alone save us.** There’s something unique about Jesus; he is the long-awaited Messiah who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). We cannot save ourselves. Our only hope for salvation is God’s grace demonstrated to us in our Lord Jesus Christ.

These three truths alone should motivate us for joyful worship. Let us prepare to worship our God.

## BLESS THE COMING KING OF GLORY

ORGAN PRELUDE: Variations on “Good Christian Men Rejoice” . . . . . Denis Bédard  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Rebekah, Imani, and Tim Jewett (8:15)  
Sallie, Lizzie, Sarah, and Robert Sutton (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . D. Todd Erickson

♠ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 198 “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” . . . . TRURO  
*stanzas 1-5*

♠ PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 24 . . . . . Jennifer Thompson (8:15)  
Ryan Williams (11:00)

The earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof,  
the world and those who dwell therein,

**for he has founded it upon the seas  
and established it upon the rivers.**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?

**He who has clean hands and a pure heart,  
who does not lift up his soul to what is false  
and does not swear deceitfully.**

He will receive blessing from the Lord  
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

**Such is the generation of those who seek him,  
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And be lifted up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle!**

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
And lift them up, O ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

**Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory!**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . TRURO

**So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and nobler life begin!  
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

## BLESS THE GRACIOUS SAVIOR OF SINNERS

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy and gracious Father,  
who can enter Your holy presence  
innocent of misdeeds and guiltless of impure motives?  
We confess that we have resisted the coming  
of Your King of glory by  
apologies not made, forgiveness not extended,  
peace not pursued, family members not loved,  
providences ignored, envy unchecked,  
prayers unspoken, fears not conquered,  
truth not defended, tongue unbridled, eyes unguarded,  
and time, talents, and treasure wasted.  
Forgive and transform us so that we serve You  
with joy and without fear.  
For we pray in our Savior's name, Jesus Christ the Lord, Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦ CAROL OF JOY AND ASSURANCE:  
No. 207 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" . . . . . IN DULCI JUBILO

✦ GREETINGS . . . . . T. Barton Kimbro

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15) . . . . . MJ Keasling

A WORD ABOUT REFUGEE SUNDAY

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.**

# BLESS THE FAITHFUL LORD OF ISRAEL

GOSPEL LESSON ..... Luke 1:67-80  
(page 856 in the church Bible)

This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

♠ CONGREGATIONAL CANTICLE: "Benedictus" ..... FOREST GREEN



1. Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to  
2. With prom-ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e -  
3. My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre -



set us free and rais - es up new hope for us: a  
nant re - call, the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from  
pare the way, to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from



Branch from Da-vid's tree. So have the proph-ets long de -  
foes to save us all, that we might wor - ship with - out  
sin's e - ter - nal sway. Then shall God's mer - cy from on



clared that with a might - y arm God would turn back our  
fear and of - fer lives of praise, in ho - li - ness and  
high shine forth and nev - er cease to drive a - way the



en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
right - eous - ness to serve God all our days.  
gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

SERMON *The Canticles of Christmas: Benedictus* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Benedictus" ..... Charles V. Stanford

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel: for He hath visited and redeemed His people;  
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of His servant David;  
As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began;  
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hands of all that hate us,  
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, and to remember His holy covenant,  
To perform the oath which He swore to our forefather Abraham, that He would give us,  
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve Him without fear,  
In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.  
And Thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest:  
For Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways;  
To give knowledge of salvation unto His people for the remission of their sins,  
Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us,  
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death:  
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

*The Westminster Singers (8:15), The Chancel Choir (11:00)  
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

✦ CHORAL RESPONSE: “Gloria Patri” . . . . . Charles V. Stanford

*Congregation to stand as choir sings and tithes and offerings are presented.*

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!

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✦ HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 219 “All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord” . . . . . CANONBURY

✦ BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Toccata on “He Is Born, the Divine Child” . . . . . Denis Bédard

✦ *Indicates congregation standing*

*CCLI License #252778*

# Advent *at* Second

**Festival of Carols: December 13, 6:00 p.m.**

**Nine Lessons & Carols: December 20, 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.**

**Advent Evensong: December 20, 6:00 p.m.**

**PJ Story Time: December 21, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**

**Christmas Eve Worship: December 24**

4:00 p.m., Family Service featuring video and children’s message

5:30, 8:00 & 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Communion

*Nursery for children ages 4 and under is available for all events except  
PJ Story Time and the 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services.*

*Visit [2pc.org/advent](http://2pc.org/advent) for more details.*