

Second Sunday of Advent



Order for the
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 4, 2016, 8:15 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

At the heart of the Christian faith is the declaration that our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man for our salvation. This affirmation is expressed succinctly in the term “incarnation.” This word is of Latin origin and simply means “invested with flesh.”

Charles Wesley writes that Jesus’ incarnation leads to wonder and worship:

“Gaze on that helpless object of endless adoration! Those infant hands shall burst our bands and work out our salvation. Strangle the crooked serpent, destroy his works forever, and open the heavenly gate to every true believer.”

Donald Macleod, Scottish theologian and professor, adds to Wesley’s declaration by reminding us that Jesus’ incarnation should also lead us to a lifestyle of humble service:

“How often is the incarnation brought before God’s people as their chief incentive and motivation to service? Paul urges us to think the way Jesus thought. He humbled himself. He made himself nothing (Philippians 2). Jesus said, ‘I don’t matter.’ There is scarcely a month that a church is not wrecked by somebody. That is the whole problem: There is always a somebody. If we were willing to humble ourselves and be nobodies, the church would not be wrecked. That is what the church needs. Nobodies who have crucified their egos and left them on the far side of that great word of Jesus: ‘Let a man deny himself’ (Mark 8:34).”

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE:

Selections from “Trio Sonata in D Minor” Johann Quantz
Emily and Stephanie Hancock, clarinets

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE

Chuck, Laurie, Chase, Mallory, and Mary Anne Ellingsworth

CALL TO WORSHIP Michael C. Davis

✦PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 194 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” . . . VENI EMMANUEL

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Select verses from Isaiah. Amanda Coop

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.

**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and shall call his name Immanuel.**

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

**and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,

**on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it**

with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

So they shall fear the name of the Lord from the west,
and his glory from the rising of the sun;

for he will come like a rushing stream,
which the wind of the Lord drives.

**“And a Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the Lord.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE VENI EMMANUEL

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to Thee, O Israel. Amen.**

✦ PRAYER OF ADORATION

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN J. Ronald Hickman

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION David A. Bowen

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

“The Shepherds’ Farewell” from *L’Enfance du Christ Op. 25* Hector Berlioz

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare.
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share.
Loving father, Loving mother, shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee with humble love and holy fear.
In the land that lies before Thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd’s lowly calling, ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav’nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!

*The Westminster Singers
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE W ZLOBIE LEZY

**Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a Gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

EPISTLE LESSON Philippians 2:1-11
(page 980 in the 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 *Kenosis: The Humility of Christ* 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 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 GREATOR EX

**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

**Holy and gracious Father,
You have a most scandalous way of rescuing proud people:
The One who possesses real authority to assert His rights
lays them aside to humbly serve and die for us.
We beseech Your forgiveness for our pride
which has destroyed our ability to truly love and care for others.
We confess that selfish ambition
has caused squabbling and discord among us.
Pardon us for our status-seeking ways
and consume us with the only status that matters:
Proximity to You, our humble Lord.
For we pray in the Name of the One to whom every knee will bow
and every tongue confess — Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" PICARDY
Reference page 193 in the Hymnal for music.

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood;
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**

**Rank on rank, the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**

**At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"**

"While the Sheep We Watched at Night" JUNGST
Reference page 215 in the Hymnal for music.

**While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.**

***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!***

**There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a child today.**

**There shall the child lie in a stall,
This child who shall redeem us all.**

**This gift of God we'll cherish well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.**

"Joy Has Dawned" Keith Getty

**Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation —
God's salvation now unfurled, hope for ev'ry nation.
Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory,
But a humble gift of love — Jesus, born of Mary.**

**Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels
As the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable.
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness,
Cling now to a mother's breast, vuln'erable and helpless.**

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory;
Gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story.
Gold, a King is born today; incense, God is with us;
Myrrh, His death will make a way, and by His blood He'll win us.

Son of Adam, Son of heaven, given as a ransom;
Reconciling God and man, Christ, our mighty champion!
What a Savior! What a Friend! What a glorious myst'ry!
Once a babe in Bethlehem, now the Lord of hist'ry.

"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"ANTIOCH
Reference page 195 in the Hymnal for music.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSEANTIOCH

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

✦ BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on "Joy to the World" Michael Dell
Samuel Metzger, organist

✦ *Indicates congregation standing*

CCLI License #252778