



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2017 · 11:00 p.m.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

PRELUDE: "Carols of the Manger" Dale Wood
Dan Gilbert, violin; Molly O'Roark, harp; Samuel Metzger, organ

CALL TO WORSHIPD. Todd Erickson

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:
No. 162 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" DIVINUM MYSTERIUM
stanza 1: The Westminster Singers
stanzas 2-5: Congregation

✦LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

✦FIRST GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:15-20
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore!**

✦INVOCATION *(please raise hands)*

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:16
(page 888 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.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Sussex Carol"arr. Dale Wood

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad,
When from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace, then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men, now and forevermore. Amen."

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD Michael G. Stokke

✦HYMN OF THE INCARNATION: No. 230
"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" ... QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

SERMON *He Came* George W. Robertson

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

✠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.

✠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

Gracious, heavenly Father,
we long to recapture the wonder of Christmas.
You showed the world Your splendor in the coming of Your Son,
the mystery of God becoming man to make us Your children.
Yet, we confess that instead of worshipful, we are complacent;
instead of joyful, we are irritable;
instead of peaceful, we are anxious.
In our unbelief, we have become impoverished
with divided hearts and distracted minds.
Have mercy upon us, O God,
and forgive us for the sake of Emmanuel,
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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).

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 OF THE BREAD AND 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.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”W ZLOBIE LEZY

**Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ, the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Christ the Babe is Lord of all.**

**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.**

CHORAL MEDITATION: “What Child”..... Paul Lohman

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant king to own Him.
The King of kings, salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

*Jennifer Brandon, Kathy Hammond, Hope Howard,
Annie Petzinger, Christy Young, Lizzie Young*

“Away in a Manger” CRADLE SONG

**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.**

CHORAL MEDITATION: “O Holy Night” Adolphe Adam

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior’s birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
’Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace;
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease,
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His holy name!
Christ is the Lord, then ever, ever praise we!
His pow’r and glory, evermore proclaim!
His pow’r and glory, evermore proclaim!

Lizzie Young, soloist

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: “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” ANTIOCH

**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.

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 RESPONSE.....VENI EMMANUEL

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel.

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Hallelujah” from *Messiah* G. F. Handel; arr. Metzger

✦Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

He Came | George Robertson December 24, 2017

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I. The Kind of World He Loved

- A. The “World”

- B. God’s Immeasurable Love

- C. Illustration: Seventy Times Seven

II. The Kind of Son He Gave

- A. Unique

- B. Truly

- C. Nicholas Wolterstorff: *Lament for a Son*

