



ORDER FOR THE  
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

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December 31, 2017  
*Season of Christmastide*



## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

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

Can anything equal the breath-taking tenderness of Jesus' final request?  
"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me  
where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me  
before the foundation of the world" (John 17:24).

*Adapted from William Hendriksen*

In truth, Christ cannot lack you.  
Heaven would be no heaven to Him, if you were not there.  
You are His crown of beauty (Isaiah 62:4).  
You are the apple of His eye (Deuteronomy 32:10),  
His treasured possession (Exodus 19:5),  
His portion (Deuteronomy 32:9),  
and his bride (Revelation 21:9).

*Adapted from Robert Murray M'Cheyne*

Take me to You, imprison me, for I,  
Except You enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except You ravish me.

*John Donne*

## THE GLORY OF GOD

PRELUDE: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" . . . . . Gordon Young  
"Jesus Came to Dwell Among Us" . . . . . Benjamin Harlan  
*Betty Eubank, viola; Kathy Priestley, piano*

SCRIPTURAL CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Joshua D. Yates

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near.  
A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel. *Numbers 24:17*

**Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.** *Isaiah 60:1*

They will bring gold and frankincense,  
and will bear good news of the praises of the Lord. *Isaiah 60:6*

**All kings will bow down to him  
and all nations will serve him.** *Psalms 72:11*

♠HYMN OF PRAISE: No. 226 "As with Gladness Men of Old" . . . . . DIX  
*stanzas 1-4*

♠PSALTER LESSON: Select verses from Psalm 27. . . . . Rusty Shappley (8:15)  
Haley Overcast (11:00)

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?**

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

**that I may dwell in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord  
and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will lift me high upon a rock.**

You have said, "Seek my face."  
My heart says to you, "Your face, Lord, do I seek."  
I would have despaired unless I had believed  
that I would see the goodness of the Lord  
in the land of the living!

**Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . DIX

**In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.**

✦ INVOCATION (*please raise hands*)

## THE GRAVITY OF SIN

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Blessed Redeemer,  
our hearts often succumb to faithful fears and worldly anxieties.  
These emotions reveal that we have other gods before You.  
We confess how prone we are to worship idols.  
You summon us to gaze upon the beauty and glory of Your Son,  
yet we settle for the transient and created splendor of this world.  
Forgive us for cherishing visions of earthly wealth, beauty, and power  
and for seeking more zealously after them  
than Your kingdom, power, and glory.  
Forgive our idolatrous hearts and wandering eyes  
through the One who alone is worthy of our deepest affection,  
Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON. . . . . Titus 3:4-5

*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us,  
not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy,  
by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

✦ HYMN OF ASSURANCE: No. 170 "Fairest Lord Jesus" . . . . . CRUSADER'S HYMN  
*stanzas 1-3*

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SOLO: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" . . . . . arr. Robert Sutton

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.  
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.  
This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us, and lightens every load.

*Robert Sutton, soloist*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . CRUSADER'S HYMN

**Beautiful Savior! Lord of the nations! Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be Thine.**

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

THE GRANDEUR OF GRACE

✦ GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN (8:15)

✦ 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.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON . . . . . John 17:20-26  
*(page 903 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)*

SERMON *Jesus' Ultimate Desire for You* Richard G. Cain

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦ HYMN OF COMMITMENT: "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" . . . . . DUKE STREET

**I know that my Redeemer lives!  
What comfort this assurance gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living Head!**  
**He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives exalted, throned above;  
He lives to rule His church in love.**  
**He lives to bless me with His love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.**  
**He lives, all glory to His name!  
He lives my Savior, still the same;  
What comfort this assurance gives:  
I know that my Redeemer lives!**

✦ BENEDICTION *(please raise hands)*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Angels From the Realms of Glory" . . . . . John Innes

✦ *Indicates congregation standing*

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**I. The Prayer: What does Jesus desire?**

**II. The People: For whom does Jesus desire it?**

**III. The Purpose: Why does Jesus desire it?**