



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2015 · 5:30 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 . . . Ginger, William, Smith, and John Warmath

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . Dan G. Burns

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 . . . . . Mary Nease  
*(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 . . . . . Richard G. Cain

✦ GREETINGS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 2:22-35. . . . . Will Nease  
(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. An elder will serve gluten free communion bread to those who raise their hands.*

✦ 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.**



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.**

SONG OF APPROACH:

"Gathered Round Your Table on This Holy Eve" . . . . . CRADLE SONG

Gathered round Your table on this holy eve,  
 Viewing Bethlehem's stable we rejoice and grieve;  
 Joy to see You lying in Your manger bed,  
 Weep to see You dying in our sinful stead.

Prince of Glory, gracing heav'n ere time began,  
 Now for us embracing death as Son of Man;  
 By Your birth so lowly, by Your love so true,  
 By Your cross most holy, Lord, we worship You!

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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.

SHARING OF THE CUP

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Still, Still, Still" . . . . . 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

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

**Getting Connected**

To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, contact Pastor Todd Erickson at (901) 531-8895 or [todd.erickson@2pc.org](mailto:todd.erickson@2pc.org).



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OUR MISSION:

To glorify God through joyful worship, to show God's love to all people,  
to lead them to faith in Jesus Christ, to make them His disciples,  
and to call them to His service.

Our 11:00 a.m. service is broadcast live each week on WHBQ (AM 560/FM 87.7).

Our worship services can be seen every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. on WREGTV  
WREG-TV (Channel 3). Live streaming of our Sunday morning and evening  
worship services is also available at [www.2pc.org/live](http://www.2pc.org/live)



*Please leave your bulletin in the pew if you'd like it to be recycled.*