



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2016
8:00 p.m.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Angels from the Realms of Glory" arr. Samuel Metzger
Samuel Metzger, Organist

STRINGS PRELUDE: "Larghetto from Serenade for Strings" Edward Elgar

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Bill, Carol, and Haley Overcast

CHORAL INTROIT: "Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones" 17th Century German

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angel choirs, Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing, Alleluia!
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in one: Alleluia!

The Chancel Choir
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music

CALL TO WORSHIP Gerry A. Peak

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 225 "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY
stanza 1: Amelia Hopper, soloist
stanzas 2-5: Congregation

✦PROPHETIC LESSON: Micah 5:1-6 Blanche P. Tosh
(page 778 in pew Bible)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE IRBY

Glory be to God the Father, and to Christ, His only Son.
Glory to the Holy Spirit, who makes known the Three in One.
On this night, we bow and pray, to the One who came to save.

✦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: "O Magnum Mysterium" Morton Lauridsen

*O magnum mysterium,
Et admirabile sacramentum
Ut animalia viderent Dominum
Natum, jacentem in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia!*

O great mystery,
And this wondrous sacred moment,
That animals should see the
Newborn Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
Was chosen to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE SEE AMID THE WINTER’S SNOW

**See, amid the winter’s snow, born for us on earth below,
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION T. Barton Kimbro

✦GREETINGS

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-14 Marjorie A. Bowman
(page 1001 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. Amen.** *(Isaiah 40:6b, 8)*

HOMILY *The Final Word* Sanders L. Willson

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

INVITATION TO 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.**

✦HYMN OF INVITATION: No. 208 “O Come, All Ye Faithful”ADESTE FIDELES

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

LITANY OF PRAISE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

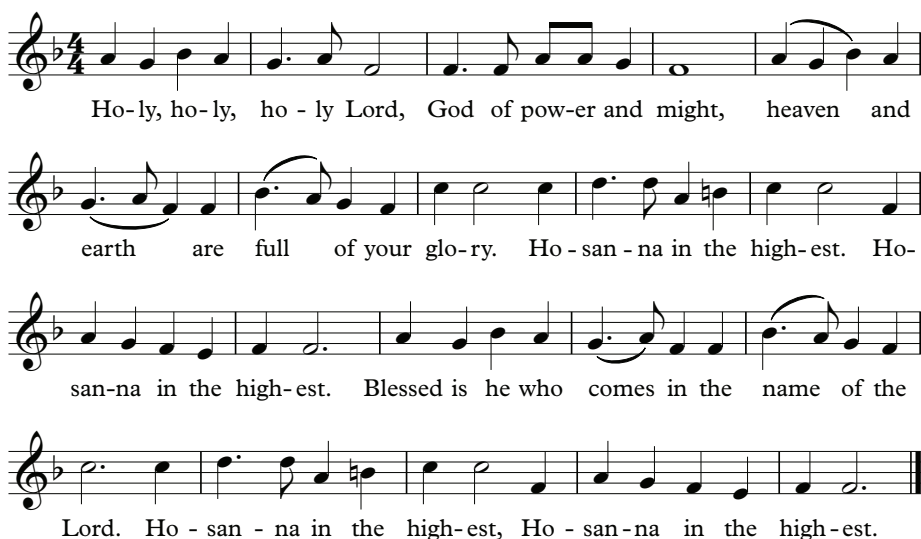
We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is meet and right and our joyful duty that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, and we praise You, King of Heaven, for Your lowly humility and Your infinite love whereby You have rescued us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of Light;

**Therefore with angels and archangels and all the heavenly host,
we laud and magnify Your glorious Name,
evermore praising You and saying:**



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heaven and
earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est, Ho - san-na in the high-est.

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.

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” arr. Mack Wilberg

Infant holy, Infant lowly, for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, nowells 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.

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” GOD REST YOU MERRY

**God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day.
To save us all from Satan’s pow’r when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.**

**From God our heav’nly Father, a blessed angel came;
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.**

**“Fear not, then,” said the angel, “let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan’s pow’r and might.”**

**The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:
And went to Bethlehem straight-way, the Son of God to find.**

“Nativity Carol” John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare, born so long ago;
Born ‘neath light of star He who loved us so.

*Far away, silent He lay, born today, your homage pay,
Christ is born for aye, born on Christmas Day.*

Cradled by mother so fair, tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear angel hosts fill the sky.

Wise men from distant far land, shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare, hearts with His warmth He fills.

Love in that stable was born into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe, make me Thy love to know.

“Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor” QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

**Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love’s sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love’s sake becamest poor.**

**Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav’nward by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love’s sake becamest man.**

**Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.**

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 No. 195: “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” ANTIOCH

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on “Joy to the World” Michael Dell

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778

Christmas Day Worship

We invite you to worship with us tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This will be the only service tomorrow, and Sunday School will not meet.

We look forward to worshiping as one church family as we are giving
our faithful volunteers the day off from the nursery.