

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve 6:00 pm

Communion Candlelight Lessons & Carols



CHRIST
EVANGELICAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (PCA)

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 24, 2021, 6:00 pm

Call to Worship

Revelation 1:8; 4:11

Minister: "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."
Let us worship our worthy Lord God together!

Carol

Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing and heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world 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 sin and sorrow 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

Invocation

First Lesson

Genesis 2:8-25 (selected verses)

Carol

Of The Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be
He is Alpha and Omega he the Source the Ending he
Of the things that are that have been
And that future years shall see evermore and evermore

O that birth forever blessed when the Virgin full of grace
By the Holy Ghost conceiving bore the Savior of our race
And the babe the world's Redeemer
First revealed his sacred face evermore and evermore

This is he whom heav'n taught singers sang of old with one accord
Whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word
Now he shines the long expected
Let creation praise its Lord evermore and evermore

Second Lesson

Genesis 3:1-19, 24

Carol

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come thou long expected Jesus born to set thy people free
From our fears and sins release us let us find our rest in thee
Israel's strength and consolation Hope of all the earth thou art
Dear Desire of every nation Joy of every longing heart

Joy to those who long to see thee Dayspring from on high appear
Come thou promised Rod of Jesse of thy birth we long to hear
O'er the hills the angels singing news glad tidings of a birth
Go to him your praises bringing Christ the Lord has come to earth

continued

Come to earth to taste our sadness he whose glories knew no end
By his life he brings us gladness our Redeemer Shepherd Friend
Leaving riches without number born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder Christ was born the Lord of all

Third Lesson

Genesis 12:1-3; 22:15-18

Carol

Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People

Comfort comfort ye my people speak ye peace thus saith our God
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning 'neath their sorrow's load
Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them
Tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over

Make ye straight what long was crooked make the rougher places plain
Let your hearts be true and humble as befits his holy reign
For the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad
And all flesh shall see the token that the Word is never broken

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-10

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

O come O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear

Chorus

Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel dhall come to thee O Israel

O come thou Rod of Jesse free thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of hell thy people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave

Chorus

O come thou Key of David come and open wide our heav'nly home
Make safe the way that leads on high and close the path to misery

Chorus

Fifth Lesson

Micah 5:2-5

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

How silently how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven
No ear may hear his coming but in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in

Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Carol

What Child Is This?

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
Nails spear shall pierce him through the cross be borne for me for you
Hail hail the Word made flesh the Babe the Son of Mary

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Offertory Carol

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heav'n adored Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold him come offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all he brings ris'n with healing in his wings
Mild he lays his glory by born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains

Chorus
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song

Chorus

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord the newborn King

Chorus

Ninth Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-12

Carol

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring
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
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 your grace then life and health come in its place
When sin departs before your grace then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the newborn king

Tenth Lesson

John 1:1-18

Sermon

"The True Light"

John 1:9-13
Rev. Richard Harris

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful joyful and triumphant
O come ye O come ye to Bethlehem
Come and behold him born the King of angels

Chorus

O come let us adore him O come let us adore him
O come let us adore him Christ the Lord

God of God Light of Light
Lo he abhors not the Virgin's womb
Very God begotten not created

Chorus

Sing choirs of angels sing in exultation
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God in the highest

Chorus

Yea Lord we greet thee born this happy morning
Jesus to thee be all glory giv'n
Word of the Father late in flesh appearing

Chorus

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

Minister: Christians, what do we believe?

All: 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 worshipped 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.

**The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographical, or language barriers.*

Call to Confession and Prayer

1 John 1:8-9

Minister: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,

People: yet too often we practice pride.

Minister: You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,

People: yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.

Minister: You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,

continued

People: yet too often we only love those who are strong, respected, or popular.

Minister: You freely forgave and healed,

People: yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.

Minister: You lived a perfectly holy life,

People: yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.

Minister: You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,

People: yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.

Minister: You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,

People: yet too often we deny you.

Minister: You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,

People: yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.

All: Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort

Romans 8:1

Minister: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Hear and receive the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

The Service of Communion

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is fitting and right that we give you thanks and praise, O God, at all times and in all places. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify your name, saying, "Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts: heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory to God in the highest."

Words of Institution

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Celebration of Light

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night

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 heavenly 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

Benediction

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