



# CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2014  
11:00 P.M.

# WELCOME TO SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*May our worship open our hearts to God's love, our eyes to God's beauty,  
our minds to God's truth, and our will to God's service.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE: "Sleep of the Infant Jesus" . . . . . Henri Büsser

*Long Long Kang, violin; Marian Shaffer, harp; Samuel Metzger, organ*

CHORAL INTROIT: "The Quiet Heart" . . . . . June Collin

'Twas in the stillness of the night that Jesus came;  
No blare of trumpets heralded His birth  
Nor broke the wonted silence of the earth;  
No clang of bells or blatant hue and cry  
Disturbed the calm beneath the Bethlehem sky.  
When Jesus came 'twas night, and the world was still.

'Tis to the quiet heart He loves to come:  
Not often 'midst the tumult of the day,  
When we can find small time to think or pray,  
Or when, confused by agitating care,  
We find no secret place for Him to share.  
We must be still if we His voice would hear.

'Tis to the quiet heart He loves to come.

*The Westminster Singers  
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . T. Barton Kimbro

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

No. 162 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*stanza 1: Laura Young, soloist  
stanza 2: The Westminster Singers  
stanzas 3-5: Congregation*

✦LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE . . . . . The Westminster Singers

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

PROPHETIC LESSON: Jeremiah 23:5, 6 . . . . . Paxton Ivy  
*(page 650 in pew Bible)*

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CHORAL MEDITATION: "Coventry Carol" . . . . . arr. Ola Gjeillo

Lullay, Thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.  
Lullay, Thou little tiny Child. By, by, lully, lullay.  
O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;  
This poor Youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.  
Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day;  
His men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.  
Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, and ever mourn and say;  
For Thy parting, nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

✦GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 1:18-25 . . . . . Elle Prosterman  
*(page 807 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)*

CHORAL MEDITATION "The Shepherds Sing" ..... Bob Chilcott  
Text by George Herbert

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?  
My God, no hymn for Thee?  
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds,  
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.  
The pasture is Thy word: the streams, Thy grace  
Enriching all the place.  
Shepherds and flock shall sing, and all my powers  
Outsing the daylight hours.

Then we will sing and shine all our own day, and one another pay,  
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,  
Till ev'n His beams sing, and my music shine.

*Lizzie Young, soloist*

HOMILY *Believing the Impossible* 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.**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE..... PICARDY  
Text by St. Thomas Aquinas

**Word made flesh, true bread He maketh, by His word His flesh to be,  
Wine His blood; which whoso taketh must from carnal thoughts be free:  
Faith alone, though sight forsaketh, shows true hearts the mystery.**

**O God, in the beginning You spoke  
and creation was born, the object of Your loving care.  
In the fullness of time You spoke,  
and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of Your love.  
We wonder at the miracle of creation;  
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.  
Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith,  
empty of hope, lacking in love.  
This year let the miracle and mystery of Christmas happen for us again.  
We wait upon you with ready hearts, O God,  
through 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.*

INSTRUMENTAL MEDITATION "What Child Is This?" . . . . . GREENSLEEVES

*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.*  
*Quinn Peebles, guitar*

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" . . . . . PICARDY

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**  
**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.**  
**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.**  
**At His feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"**

"Away in a Manger" . . . . . CRADLE SONG

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay 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: "Bogoroditse Devo" . . . . . Sergei Rachmaninoff  
Text from Luke 1:28b,30-33

*"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.  
And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son,  
And you shall call his name Jesus.  
He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.  
And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,  
And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever,  
And of his kingdom there will be no end."*

"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 PEACE . . . . . 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: "Angels We Have Heard on High" . . . . . GLORIA

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

*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 heav'nly song?**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

MEDITATION

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on "Joy to the World!" . . . . . Michael Dell

✦Indicates congregation standing

CCLI License #252778