

W O R S H I P  
C H R I S T  
T H E  
N E W B O R N  
K I N G

CHRISTMASTIDE

December 25, 2016

## A WORD ON WORSHIP

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

Worship is about gazing upon true beauty. To behold with spiritual eyes the face of Jesus Christ is to see the glory of God (II Corinthians 4:6). The one thing the Psalmist craves is to dwell in the Lord's house in order to gaze upon His fair beauty (Psalm 27:5-6). This is the cure for spiritual drift as well as the prescription for spiritual growth.

Charles Wesley, in one of his hymns on the Nativity of our Lord, teaches us why we worship a babe born in Bethlehem on the first Christmas Day:

*Gaze on that helpless object of endless adoration!  
Those infant hands shall burst our bands and work out our salvation;  
Strangle the crooked serpent; destroy his works forever,  
And open set the heavenly gate to every true believer.*

## COME AND EXALT HIS GREATNESS

ORGAN PRELUDE: "That Day, So Filled with Joy" . . . . . J.S. Bach  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

BRASS PRELUDE: Flourish on "Joy to the World" . . . . . arr. Robert Hobby

CHORAL INTROIT: "Arise, Shine" . . . . . Dan Forrest  
Arise, shine! For thy light is come!  
*The Chancel Choir  
Gabriel C. Statom, Director of Music*

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . David A. Bowen

♠PROCESSIONAL HYMN:  
No. 218 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" . . . . . REGENT SQUARE

♠PSALTER LESSON: Psalm 98 . . . . . Gerry A. Peak

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things!

**His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**

The Lord has made known his salvation;

**he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

**All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;

**break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it!

**Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together**

before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

♠ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . LASST UNS ERFRUEN

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below: alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host,  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

♠ PRAYER OF ADORATION . . . . . Michael C. Davis

### COME AND EXPERIENCE HIS GRACE

SOLO MEDITATION: "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" . . . . . Trad. African-American Spiritual

Sweet little Jesus boy, they made you be born in a manger.  
Sweet little holy child — didn't know who You were.  
  
Didn't know you come to save us, Lord, to take our sins away.  
Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see — we didn't know who You were.  
  
You have told us how — we are trying.  
Master, you have shown us how, even when You were dying.  
  
Just seems like we can't do right; look how we treated You.  
But please, Sir, forgive us, Lord, we didn't know it was You.  
  
Sweet little Jesus boy, born a long time ago.  
Sweet little holy Child — we didn't know who You were;  
We didn't know who You were.

*Ephie Ballard Johnson, soloist  
Gabriel Statom, piano*

♠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH . . . . . Dan G. Burns

Christian, what do you believe about the incarnation of Jesus Christ?  
  
**The Word of the Father, by whom all time was created,  
was made flesh and was born in time for us.  
He, without whose divine permission no day completes its course,  
wished to have one day for His human birth.  
In the bosom of His Father He existed before all the cycles of ages;  
born of an earthly mother,  
He entered upon the course of the years on this day.**

**The Maker of man became man  
that He, Ruler of the stars, might be nourished at the breast;  
that He, the Bread, might be hungry;  
that He, the Fountain, might thirst;  
that He, the Light, might sleep;  
that He, the Way, might be wearied by the journey;  
that He, the Truth, might be accused by false witnesses;  
that He, the Judge of the living and the dead,  
might be brought to trial by a mortal judge;  
that He, Justice, might be condemned by the unjust;  
that He, Discipline, might be scourged with whips;  
that He, the Foundation, might be suspended upon a cross;  
that Courage might be weakened; that Security might be wounded;  
and that Life might die.**

**To endure these and similar indignities for us,  
to free us, unworthy creatures,  
He who existed as the Son of God before all ages, without a beginning,  
deigned to become the Son of Man.**

*St. Augustine on "The Incarnation of Jesus Christ"*

♣HYMN OF MYSTERY: No. 213 "What Child Is This" . . . . . GREENSLEEVES

CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION. . . . . Richard G. Cain

**God, our gracious, heavenly Father,  
we confess our tendency to seek great things for ourselves  
rather than seek first Your kingdom.  
We covet power, yet You came among us as a little child.  
We believe the lie that material things will make us happy  
when You alone offer what is permanently satisfying.  
Since Your Son is full of grace,  
pour out His grace upon us  
and forgive us for the glory of Your great name.  
Then open our lips that we may sing Your praise  
and testify to Your transforming power  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

♣HYMN OF CHRIST'S BIRTH:

No. 207 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" . . . . . IN DULCI JUBILO

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS. . . . . Michael G. Stokke

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "The First Noel" . . . . . arr. Dan Forrest  
English Carol, 16th Century

*Congregation may stay seated and sing with choir:*

**The first Noel the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

*Choir only:*

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

*Congregation stand and sing:*

**Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

♣PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION . . . . . T. Barton Kimbro

# COME AND ENJOY HIS FREEDOM

## ✦GREETINGS

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER. . . . .D. Todd Erickson

**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.**

EPISTLE LESSON . . . . . Hebrews 2:14-18  
*(page 1002 in the 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)*

SERMON *The Greatest Gift – Ever!* Sanders L. Willson

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

✦HYMN OF CHRIST'S GLORY:  
No. 203 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" . . . . . MENDELSSOHN

## ✦BENEDICTION

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE. . . . . ANTIOCH

**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.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah*. . .G. F. Handel; are. Metzger

✦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).

### Holiday Worship at Second

We will not meet for evening worship tonight — Merry Christmas!  
Our normal worship schedule will resume on New Year's Day with morning worship at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m. and our evening service at 6:00 p.m.