



# CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2016 · 11:00 p.m.

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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

CHORAL INTROIT: "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" . . . . . Johann Ebeling

All my heart this night rejoices  
As I hear far and near sweetest angel voices.  
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing  
Till the air everywhere with their joy is ringing.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, doth entreat, "Flee from woe and danger,  
Brethren, come! From all doth grieve you  
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder;  
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder!  
Love Him Who with love is yearning;  
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish;  
Live to Thee and with Thee, dying, shall not perish;  
But shall dwell with Thee forever,  
Far on high, in the joy that can alter never.

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

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . D. Todd Erickson

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

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

*stanza 1: Lizzy Young, soloist  
stanza 2: The Westminster Singers  
stanzas 3-4: Congregation*

✦LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

✦GOSPEL READING: John 1:1-18. . . . . William R. Jorgensen  
(page 886 in pew Bible)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

**Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,  
Hymn, and chant, and high thanksgiving,  
And unwearied praises be,  
Honor, glory, and dominion,  
And eternal victory, evermore and evermore!**

✦PRAYER OF ADORATION

EPISTLE READING: Hebrews 1:5-14 . . . . . Brandon G. Morrison  
(page 857 in pew Bible)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

✦HYMN OF THE INCARNATION:

No. 200 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" . . . . . CAROL

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD. . . . . Michael C. Davis



CHORAL MEDITATION "O Nata lux" . . . . . Morton Lauridsen

*O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
Dignare clemens supplicum  
Laudes preces que sumere.*

*Qui carne quondam contegi  
Dignatus es pro perditis,  
Nos membra confer effici  
Tui beati corporis.*

O born Light of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
Mercifully deem worthy and accept  
The praises and prayers of Your supplicants.

Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
For the sake of the lost ones,  
Grant us to be made members  
Of Your holy body.

HOMILY

*Let All God's Angels Worship Him*

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” .....W ZLOBIE LEZY

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

SOLO MEDITATION: “The Sleeping Baby Jesus” ..... Hugo Wolf

Son of the Virgin, Child of Heaven  
Asleep on the ground upon the wood of torture,  
Which the good Master with effortless significance  
Laid under your peaceful dreams;  
You the flower even in the bud  
Showing us the glory of your father!  
O, who could see?  
What visions are hidden behind your brow,  
Your dark lashes, what softly changing pictures are painted!  
Son of the Virgin, Child of Heaven!

*Sarah Jordan, soloist*

“See, amid the Winter’s Snow” .....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.*

**Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies:  
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim.**

**Say, ye holy shepherds, say — what’s your joyful news today?  
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?**

**“As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing, ‘Peace on earth,’ told us of the Savior’s birth.”**

**Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,  
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!**

**Teach, O teach us, holy child, by Thy face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble Thee, in Thy sweet humility.**

CHORAL MEDITATION: “In the Bleak Midwinter” .....arr. Abbie Betinis  
Music by Gustav Holst  
Text by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Christ a homeless stranger, so the gospels say,  
Cradled in a manger and a bed of hay;  
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed,  
Mary and her baby, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have thronged the air,  
Shepherds, beasts, and wisemen may have gathered there.  
In her tender bliss blessed this new redeemer with a kiss.

What can I give you, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give you: give my heart.

*Terri Theil and Robert Sutton, soloists*

# 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: “Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come” . . . . .ANTIOCH

**Joy the the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! 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 sins and sorrows 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.**

# ✦BENEDICTION

# ✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . . GLORIA

**Gloria in excelsis deo.  
Gloria in excelsis deo.**

# ORGAN POSTLUDE: Festive Flourish on “Joy to the World” . . . . .Michael Dell *Samuel Metzger, Organist*