



Fort Worth  
Presbyterian  
Church

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*May God's blessings in Christ be with you.*

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“For you know the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”

- 2 Corinthians 8:8

Christ is born, let us glorify him this night! Christ has come from Heaven, let us go out to meet him. Christ is on earth, and yet he is exalted above the highest Heaven. Therefore, how can we not worship the Infinite who became an infant for our salvation?

- Gregory the Theologian

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† *Congregation standing*

# Worship

—December 24, 2021—

*Christmas Eve*

Preparation for Worship

The Greeting

Pastor: Christ is born.

**People: Let us glorify him! Amen!**

† The Call to Worship *God calls His people to worship*

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has Light shined.

**People: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

Pastor: Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his Kingdom, to establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

**All: Hallelujah! The Kingdom of our God has come; his light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it!**

## Opening Prayers of Adoration

Pastor: Today, he who holds the whole creation in his hand is born of a virgin. He whose essence none can touch is bound in swaddling-cloths as a mortal man. God, who in the beginning fashioned the heavens, lies in a manger. He who rained manna on his people in the wilderness is fed on milk from his mother's breast. The Bridegroom of the Church summons the Wise Man; the Son of the virgin accepts their gifts. Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel who alone does wondrous things.

**All: Blessed be his glorious Name forever! May the whole earth be filled with his glory!**

Pastor: Let us pray:

**All: Good and gracious God, you gave us your only Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling-cloths, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. Therefore, on this night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the Heavenly host that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the One for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, Messiah and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: That this evening may be good, holy, and peaceful, let us pray with one heart and mind:

**All: O Lord our God, receive the praise we offer you as our evening sacrifice; make us to be flaming torches for Christ. Delivered by your grace from the works of darkness, may we firmly hold onto your Word of life, for your glory. And hear us now as we pray the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:**

**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 the evil one. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

† Carol of Entry

*We wait for our glorious King*

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL      HYMN 194

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, thou Dayspring from on high  
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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.

O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace.

VENI EMMANUEL

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Christ Candle

*Bill Lueg*

John 1:1-14

Reader: We now light the last candle of Advent, the Christ Candle. We light this candle to remind us that Jesus is the promised seed of the woman, the Light of the world. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

## Advent Song

### COME LIGHT OUR HEARTS

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.

O Lord of life, our only hope,  
Your radiance shines on all who look to you in the dark,  
Emmanuel come, come light our hearts.

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.

O joy above all other loves, in you we find more than enough,  
We come as we are, O heal and restore, come light our hearts.

(repeat)

For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
For you, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.  
Truly our hope is in you, truly our hope is in you.

Words and music by Sandra McCracken

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7      *Rebecca York*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm Reading: Psalm 96      *Galli Davis*

Reader: O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD,  
all the earth!

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his  
salvation from day to day.**

Reader: Declare his glory among the nations,

**People: His marvelous works among the peoples!**

Reader: For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

**People: He is to be feared above all gods.**

Reader: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but  
the LORD made the heavens.

**People: Splendor and majesty are before him; strength  
and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

Reader: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name;  
bring an offering, and come into his courts!**

Reader: Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth!

**People:** Say among the nations, “The LORD reigns!”

**Reader:** Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity.”

The Song of Mary: Luke 1:46-55 *Marilyn Schwartzbeck*

**Reader:** My soul magnifies the Lord:

**People:** And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

**Reader:** For he has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden;

**People:** For behold, from henceforth, all generations will  
call me blessed.

**Reader:** For he that is mighty has done great things for me,

**People:** And holy is his name.

**Reader:** His mercy is on those who fear him from generation  
to generation. He has shown strength with his arm;

**People:** He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their  
hearts.

**Reader:** He has put down the mighty from their thrones,

**People:** and he has exalted the lowly.

**Reader:** He has filled the hungry with good things,

**People:** And the rich he has sent away empty.

**Reader:** He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of  
his mercy,

**People:** As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his  
seed forever.



## † The Carol

### COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set they 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 ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry 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.'

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.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.  
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

Epistle Reading: Titus 2:11-14

*Steve Fults*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20

*Corbitt Eggar*

Reader: This is the Glorious Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Glory be to you, Lord Christ. Glory be to you!**

## † The Carol

### HARK! THE HEARLD 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 th’angelic host 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 th’incarnate Deity!

Pleased as man with men to dwell,

Jesus, our Immanuel.

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.’

## Prayers of the People

**Pastor:** All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

**People:** **Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Bring us into your promised freedom.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

**People:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Pastor:** O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Pastor:** O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in peace and justice.

**People:** **Lord, hear our prayer,**  
(silent meditation)

**Pastor:** All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

# The Reading of the Word: 2 Corinthians 8:8

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Eve Meditation

*Pastor Eggar*

† Carol of Response

*We adore our Savior*

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

African-American spiritual

# Communion

## The Encouragement

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

**People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: On this night before Christmas we confess that we believe that the Son of God, very God of very God, was made man, taking on him human nature of soul and body, and joining it with the Divine in the unity of his Person; that a virgin named Mary did by the immediate operation of the Holy Spirit conceive him in her womb, and in due time brought him forth; so that the Word was made flesh, being without any original corruption, born of a woman under the Law, that he might deliver us from the guilt of sin. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven, we praise and magnify your glorious Name, evermore declaring:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the Highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Amen.**

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

## Words of Institution

## The Confession

**Pastor:** Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

**People:** **Hallelujah!**

**Pastor:** Let us proclaim the mystery of the faith:

**All:** **Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again. Hallelujah!**

**Pastor:** The holy gifts of God for the holy people of God.  
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you  
and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with  
thanksgiving. Let us now partake of the feast!

## Holy Communion

## Statements for Communion

“The body of Christ for you.”

“The blood of Christ for you.”

“You have new life in Christ.”

“You have full forgiveness in Christ.”

*(Clear cups are wine and purple cups are grape juice)*

## Understanding Holy Communion

“For Christ our passover has also been sacrificed for us, therefore, let us celebrate the feast.” 1 Corinthians 5:7-8

Because we believe the Table belongs to the Lord, it is vital that you come this morning on His terms:

1. You must be in communion with Jesus Christ by faith and repentance, trusting Him alone for your salvation.  
– *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
2. You must be in communion with your brothers and sisters in Christ. – *Matthew 5:23-24; Ephesians 4:11-12*
3. You must be in communion with the church (any Bible-believing church) as a baptized member in good standing.  
– *Matthew 18:15-18; Hebrews 13:17*
4. Because we seriously heed Scripture's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:28-29, We invite children who are ready to make a public profession of saving faith to complete the Communicants Class materials available at the book table, arrange a meeting with the elders, and thus become regular “communicants” at the Lord’s Table.

*"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup."*

– *1 Corinthians 11:28-29*

## Prayers for Those Not Communing

**For those searching for truth:** Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Give me the ability to follow you no matter what it might cost me. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and leads to the life that you promise. Amen.

**For those who desire to profess faith in Christ:** Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead and are now representing me at the Father's right hand in heaven, I turn from my sins and receive you as my savior. Amen.

**A prayer for those struggling against sin:** Lord Jesus, give me the ability to see in you the fulfillment of all my needs and desires, and help me to turn from every false source of satisfaction to feed on you, the true and living bread. Enable me to lay aside the sin that clings so closely to me, and run with perseverance the race that you have set before me, looking only to you, the author and perfecter of my faith. Amen.

**A prayer for covenant children who have not yet made a profession of faith:** Lord Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to grow up in a Christian family where I am surrounded by the good news of the gospel. Help me to grow in my understanding of who you are and what you have done for me on the cross. Help me learn what it means for me to turn from my sins and trust in you alone for my salvation. Teach me what it means to follow you as one of your disciples. Amen.



## Spreading of the Light

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your Light has come. As our Lord Jesus himself told us, “I am the Light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**People: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Behold, the Light of the world has come and the darkness will never overtake it!

*As the candles are lighted say to one another, “Behold, the Light of the world has come!”*

## † Closing Carols

### SILENT 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,  
Heav’nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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!

Words by Joseph Mohr

## JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to 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.

## † The Song of Simeon

**Pastor:** Now dismiss your servants, O Master, according to your Word, in peace: For our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to be revealed to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.

**All: Amen!**

## † The Blessing

**Pastor:** And now may Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and things Heavenly, grant you fullness of peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, this night and always.

**All: Amen! Amen! Amen!**

**Pastor:** Christ is born!

**People:** Therefore, let us glorify him!

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church  
"Nurturing a joy for loving God and loving people  
by proclaiming, believing and living out the gospel of Jesus Christ"

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