



Fort Worth
Presbyterian
Church

Welcome to our visitors on Facebook Live. We're glad you've joined us to worship today. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to complete a visitor form, submit a prayer request or praise or to signup for any activity.

May God's blessings in Christ be with you.

In Malachi, God's people were living disobedient lives, thinking it didn't matter one way or another – because to them God was totally absent from the scene and did nothing. Their sin, then, was a total indifference toward the will of the Lord, rising out of their disappointment and loss of intimate fellowship with God. It is therefore the God of the covenant whose coming is foretold in Malachi 2:17-3:6.

- Elizabeth Achtemeier

Worship

—December 5, 2021—

Welcome

Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

The Greeting

Leader: The Lord our God is with us.

People: He is with us indeed.

† The Call to Worship

God calls His people to worship

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD!

People: For he is the Maker of Heaven and earth!

Pastor: Our souls magnify the Lord!

People: And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

Pastor: The Mighty One has done great things for us!

People: His name is Holy and he is worthy to be praised!

Pastor: Come then, and let us praise his name; for he is our Maker and our Redeemer. It is he who shows us mercy and grace.

Adapted from Luke 1:46-49

† Invocation

We seek the Lord's presence among us

† Hymn of Praise

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.

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:

"Glory to God, in the highest!"

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.

Words by John Francis Wade

† Doxology

We respond in praise

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen

Confession of Sin

We turn from our sin

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins together:

All: Almighty God, we have sinned against you and we have offended you. And yet, O Lord, as we acknowledge our sins and offenses, we also acknowledge you to be a merciful God, a loving and favorable Father, to all who turn to you. And so we humbly ask you, for the sake of Christ your Son, to show mercy to us and forgive all our offenses. By your Spirit, O God, take possession of our hearts, so that, not only the actions of our lives, but also the words of our mouths, and even the smallest thoughts of our minds, may be guarded and governed by you. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Faith

We rest in the mercy of God

Pastor: Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree” – so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. – *Galatians 3:13-14*

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is well-pleased.

† Hymn of Response

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

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Bethlehem Candle

Shafer Family

Psalm 85

Luke 3:1-6

Reader: We light the second candle of Advent to remind us that the Lord Jesus, who is the light of the world, was born in David's royal city of Bethlehem, born like him to be the King who rules over all.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Pastoral Prayer

Morning Offering

We offer our gifts

*Children Pre- K through 2nd grade can now be dismissed for
KIWI*

(Kids In Worship Instruction).

Teachers will meet the children in the foyer to take them to class.

*After the sermon, their teachers will return them to worship where
they may come directly to you, or you may meet them at the back of
the auditorium.*

The Reading of the Word

Malachi 2:17-3:6

Pew Bible – Page 802

¹⁷ You have wearied the Lord with your words.

“How have we wearied him?” you ask.

By saying, “All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord, and he is pleased with them” or “Where is the God of justice?”

3 “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

² But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. ³ He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, ⁴ and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

⁶“I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor Eggar

THE PROMISE OF REFINING

[illegible]

Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

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: It is good, right, and our delight that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of Heaven we praise and magnify your glorious name evermore praising you and 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.

The Confession

Pastor: Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us!

People: Hallelujah!

Pastor: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: 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!

(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.

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENT

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 descending
comes, our homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of heaven now incarnate
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
streams before him on the way,
as the Light of light descending
from the realms of endless day
comes, that pow'rs of hell may vanish,
as the shadows pass 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!”

COME BEHOLD THE WONDROUS MYSTERY

Come behold the wondrous mystery
In the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises
Robed in frail humanity
In our longing, in our darkness
Now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended
Took on flesh to ransom us

Come behold the wondrous mystery
He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering
Never trace nor stain of sin
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners
Hangs the Lamb in victory
See the price of our redemption
See the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory
Grace unmeasured, love untold

Come behold the wondrous mystery
Slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him
Praise the Lord; He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

What a foretaste of deliverance
How unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected
As we will be when he comes

By Matt Boswell, Michael Bleecker, Matt Papa

Closing Hymn

FROM THE SQUALOR OF A BORROWED STABLE

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again –
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free –
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

Stuart Townend Copyright © 1999 Thankyou Music

The Sending

The people of God are sent into the world

Pastor: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, come quickly!

People: **By God's grace may we learn to love and long for his appearing.**

Adapted from Revelation 22:20 and 1 Timothy 6:8

The Blessing

God blesses his people as they go

Hebrews 13:20-21

Pastor: And now may the God of peace, who,
through the blood of the eternal covenant,
brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you
with everything good that you may do his
will, and work in you that which is pleasing
in his sight, through Jesus Christ.

All: **To him be the glory forever and ever.
Amen!**

Announcements

Deacon of the Day

Randy Shannon

Save the Date

- ***Friday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.***
Christmas Eve Service

Information & Events

Offering: To make a contribution [CLICK HERE](#) or you may text to give to 817-934-6447.

Adult Choir for Lessons and Carols: Last rehearsal today 5-6:00pm.

Small Groups TODAY at 6-7:30pm

Small Group Kids Choir (1st-6th Grade): Last rehearsal during small groups today.

PCA Ministerial Relief Offering TODAY: Please make checks payable to FWPC and *on the memo line please list Ministerial Relief Offering*. Online donations, [CLICK HERE](#).

Prison Fellowship Angel Tree: Select an angel from the tree in the Fellowship Hall to purchase a Christmas gift for a child on behalf of an incarcerated parent. Each angel includes a child's name, age, and suggested gift.

Benevolence Offering for widows & families in need in our congregation is being taken Sunday, December 19th.

Find Refreshment in a Zoom Prayer meeting: Monday@ 7:30am, Thursday@ Noon. Join the church for 30 minutes of prayer Monday or Thursday as we pray for issues facing our church and nation. The link was emailed this past Friday.

Lessons and Carols Reception Needs: Cookies, as well as set up and clean up help, are needed for Lessons and Carols on the evening of Sunday, December 12. If you are able to assist with this event, please sign up at fortworthpca.org or on the Fellowship Hall table. If you have questions, contact Susan Haertner at 817-919-6376 or Alice Miller at 817-721-3578.

December at

Wednesday, December 1, 7:30 PM - High School Large Group
friends, food, fellowship, short lesson on Judges

Saturday, December 4, 7:00 PM - Youth Christmas Party at the Ryans
Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and bring a \$10 gift for the white elephant gift exchange. Dinner, desserts and warm drinks provided.

Sundays, 9:00 AM - Sunday School on Dec 5, 12, & 19
High School - Room 203 on Romans
Middle School - Room 204 on the Westminster Shorter Catechism

Sunday, December 5, 6:00 PM
High School Small Groups - Room 203 on "God Is" by Mark Jones
Middle School Large Group - Room 204 on Judges



KIDS
Advent
PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER
5
11:30-1:00

Pre-K to 6th Grade, stay after church for lunch, games, prizes, dessert and two hands-on experiments to ponder the beauty and glory of Jesus.

Lessons *and* Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

STRING PRELUDE BEGINS AT 5:45 PM.

Nursery provided for infant-4 years.
Christmas Cookie fellowship follows.



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

SESSION (ELDERS)

Ben Dyess	994-2699	Jack Norris	821-0918
Brandon Eggar	615-605-5182	Scott Wade	368-6674
Steve Fults	773-8772	John Weiser	228-4193
Scott Hames	313-1869		

For Pastoral Care Appointment: 817-731-3300

Prayer Requests: prayer@fortworthpca.org

DEACONS

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Use the QR code to the right as a paperless option to send prayer requests, sign up for any activity or to register as a visitor

