

FORT WORTH PRESBYTERIAN

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.



To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers a welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Use the QR code below as a paperless option to register as a visitor, send prayer requests, mercy needs, update your contact information, request a name tag or elder visit.



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

2 Corinthians 8:9

*Please turn off or silence all communication devices.
Courtesy walker and wheelchair are available at the main entrance.*

*Hearing Assistive Devices (FM Receivers) are available
at the back sound booth.*

† Congregation standing

Worship

— December 24, 2022 —

Christmas Eve Service

Welcome

Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

† The Call 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 light has 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!

From Isaiah 9

† Advent Song

O COME O COME, EMMANUEL

Red Trinity Hymnal #194

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 manger. He who rained manna on his people in the wilderness is fed on the milk from his mother's breast. The Bridegroom of the Church summons the Wise Men; 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! Amen and Amen!

Pastor: Let us pray:

All: Good and gracious God, you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling-cloths, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this night, draw us ever deeper into the mystery of your unbreakable love. May our voices be joined with the Heavenly choir who sang, "Glory to God in the Highest!" Give us a place among the shepherds that we might find the One for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ our Messiah and Lord. Amen.

† Carol of Entry

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

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Christ Candle
Luke & Rachel Jordan
John 1:1-14

Reader: We light the last candle of Advent, the Christ Candle. We light a 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 cannot overcome it.

All: Thanks be to God!

Psalm Reading – Psalm 8

Ray Cosgrove

Reader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

People: You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength because of your foes, to still the enemy and the avenger.

Reader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,

People: What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you visit him?

Reader: Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings, and crowned him with glory and honor.

People: You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the fields, the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the sea.

Reader: O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

The Song of Mary – Luke 1:46-55

Rebecca Tanner

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 who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

People: And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.

Reader: He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

People: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

Reader: He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now and shall be forever, world without end. Amen.

† The Carol

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING *Red Trinity Hymnal #203*

† Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25 *Ellie Diamantopoulos*

Prayers of the People

United to Christ, who has united himself to our flesh forever, we offer intercessions for those we love, the Church, and the world in which he has begun to make all things new.

Pastor: O Jesus, Son of the living God, splendor of the Father, eternal Light, King of glory, Son of the virgin Mary:

All: Glory be to you, O Lord!

Pastor: O Jesus, we love and worship you; your name is called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace:

All: Glory be to you, O Lord!

Pastor: O Jesus, you are powerful, patient, obedient, meek, and lowly of heart, and you love and desire us to be pure in heart:

All: O Lord, grant us your peace!

Pastor: O Jesus, Lord of the poor, Treasure of the faithful, Good Shepherd, True Light, Inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way and our Life:

All: Hear our prayers for those we love. *(followed by a time of silent prayer)*

Pastor: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, Come and abide with us this night.

All: Fill us with your grace and truth!

The Reading of the Word

Psalm 85

Pew Bible –Page 493

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Eggar

An adapted Christmas Eve Sermon By Saint Augustine

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 the celebration of Christmas Day, 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 to the Divine in the unity of his Person; that a woman named Mary did by the immediate operation of the Holy Spirit conceive him within her womb, continuing still as before a pure virgin, and in due time brought him forth; and that so the Word was made flesh, being without any original corruption, born of a woman, born 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 praising you and singing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 God of pow - er, God of might,
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. —
 — Ho - san - na in the high - est, —
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. —
 — Ho - san - na in the high - est, —
 — ho - san - na in the high - est.

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:

People: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again. Hallelujah!

Pastor: And now our Holy Master, that with boldness and without condemnation, we dare to call upon you, the Heavenly God, as our Father, and say:

All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for yours is the Kingdom and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

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!

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 the Light

Pastor: Arise, shine, for your light has come. As our Lord Jesus himself has 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!”

† The 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: When he took in his arms the infant Word made flesh,
Simeon declared:

All: Now dismiss your servant, O Master, according to your word, in peace: For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to be revealed to the Gentiles, and glory to your people, Israel.

† The Blessing

God blesses his people as they go

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen! Amen! Amen!

Pastor: Christ is born!

All: 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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