

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church



December 24, 2023
Christmas Eve

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.

For Free Wi-Fi, go to Settings on your device and select network 'FWPCA'

Courtesy walker and wheelchair are available at the main entrance.

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

† Congregation standing

Order of the Worship of God

— December 24, 2023 —
Christmas Eve

Welcome

Prepare our Hearts for Worship

† The Call to Worship

Rev. Brandon Eggar

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!

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Opening Prayers of Adoration

Pastor: Let us pray:

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

Pastor: That this evening may be holy and good, let us now 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.

Pastor: And hear us now as we pray the prayer You taught us to pray:

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.

† Carol of Entry

COME O REDEEMER COME



1. Fa - ther en-throned on high.

Ho - ly

ho - ly,

2. Lord, save us from the dark

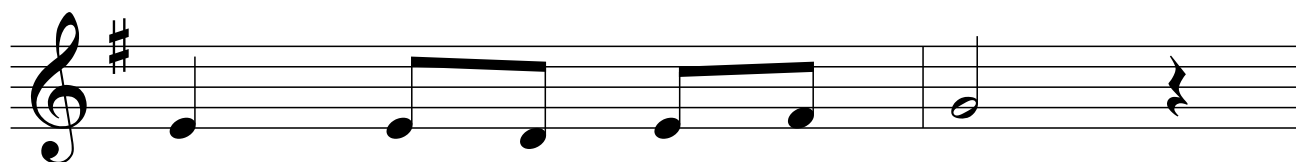
Of our

striv-ing,

3. Look now u - pon our need

Lord be

with us,



An - cient e - ter - nal

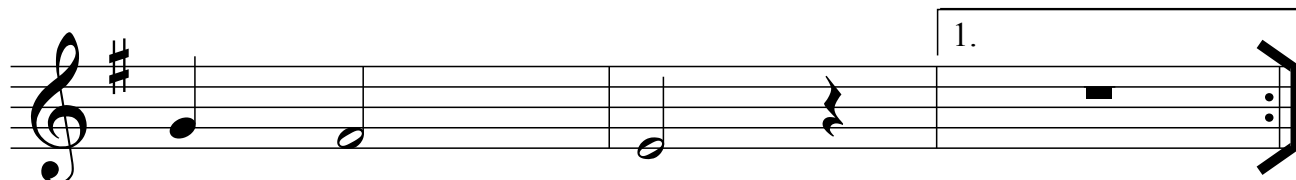
light

Faith - less and troubl - ed

heart

Heal us and make us

free



Hear our

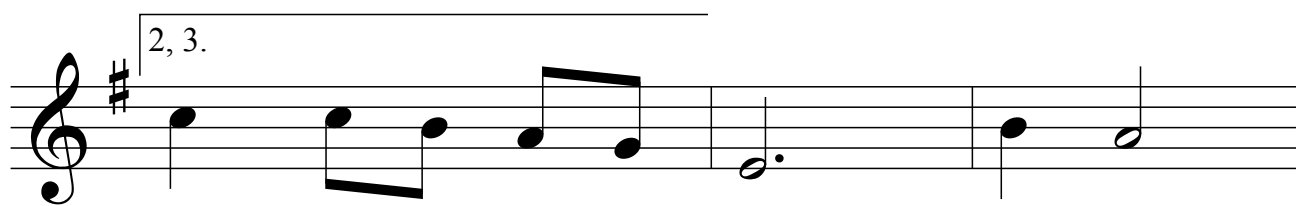
prayers

Weighed

down

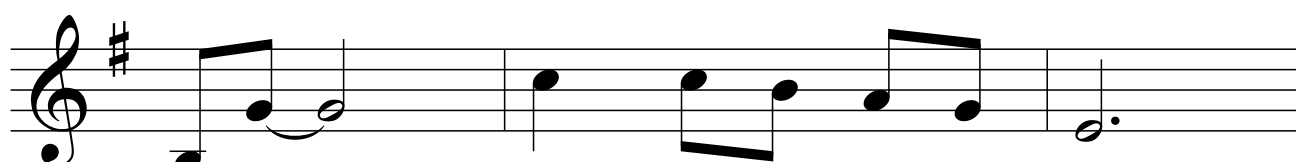
From our

sin



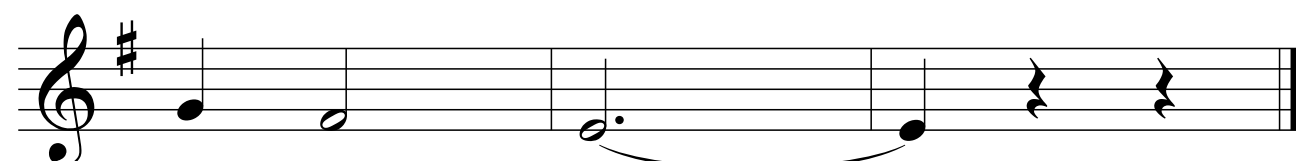
Come, Oh Re - deem - er, come

Grant us



mercy. _____

Come, Oh Re - deem - er come



Grant us

peace. _____

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Christ Candle
Justin Jr. and Levi Pierce
John 1:1-4, 14-18

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!

The 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.

CCLI Song # 7054135

Sandra McCracken

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The Song of Mary – Luke 1:46-55

Neecia Eggar

Reader: My soul magnifies the Lord:

People: And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Reader: For he has regarded the lowly estate of his servant;

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

Reader: For he has done great things for me,

People: And holy is his name!

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

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

Reader: He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly.

People: 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,

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

All (*singing*): Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

† The Carol

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heav’n’s all gracious King”;
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heav’nly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hov’ring wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now! For glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hast’ning on,
by prophet bards foretold,
when with the ever circling years
comes round the age of gold;
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

† Gospel Reading – Matthew 1:18-25

David Schroeder

Reader: This is the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

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

† The Carol

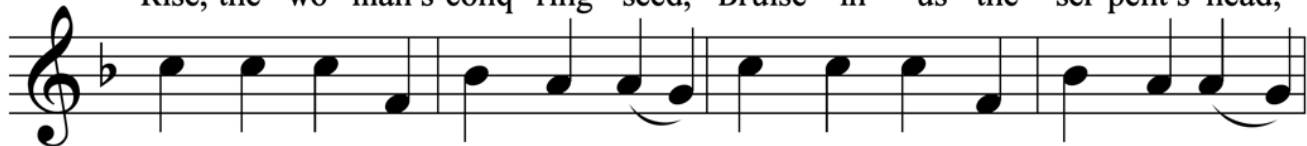
HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING



1. Hark the her-ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high-est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!
4. Come, De - sire of nat - ions, come! Fix in us Thy hum - ble home.



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.
Rise, the wo - man's conq - ring seed, Bruise in us the ser - pent's head;



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,
Ad - am's like - ness now ef - face, Stamp Thine im - age in its place:



with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with man to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.
Fi - nal Ad - am from a - bove, Re - in - state us in Thy love.



Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King."

Prayers of the People

Pastor: O Jesus, Son of the Living God, Splendor of the Father, Eternal Light, King of Glory, Son of Righteousness, Son of the Virgin Mary:

All: Glory be to You, O Lord!

Pastor: O Jesus, we love and worship You this night, for You are our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God and Prince of Peace.

All: Hear our prayers, O Lord!

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

All: Have mercy on us, O Lord!

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

All: Receive our praises, O Lord!

Pastor: O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

All: Grant us your peace!

Christmas Eve Meditation

2 Corinthians 8:9

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.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Preaching of the Word

Pastor Eggar

Adapted from Athenasius and John Chrysostum

The Great Thanksgiving

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 singing: 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.

Marty Haugen (1984) ©1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

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: 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,
Gluten/Dairy free wafers are individually wrapped)*

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.”

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 4:1-6
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. Contact Rebecca York at rebecca@fortworthpca.org.

*"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 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: 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.

People: Amen!

† The Blessing

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: Go forth in the peace of our Incarnate Lord.

Fort Worth Presbyterian Church

By God's grace and all for his glory, Fort Worth Presbyterian Church exists to gather for biblically saturated worship, grow together in the life of the gospel, and go out to bear witness to the reign of Christ in all things.

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Prayer Requests: prayer@fortworthpca.org

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