

# WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 18, 2022

The LORD reigns; he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed; he has put on strength as his belt.  
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved.  
Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.  
**Psalm 93:1**

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

### Greeting and Blessing\*

### Responsive Reading\*

Psalm 31:15-24 (p. 795 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

My times are in your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.**

Let me not be put to shame, O LORD, for I have cried out to you;  
but let the wicked be put to shame and lie silent in the grave.

**Let their lying lips be silenced, for with pride and contempt they speak arrogantly  
against the righteous.**

How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you,  
**which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you.**

In the shelter of your presence you hide them from the intrigues of men;  
**in your dwelling you keep them safe from accusing tongues.**

Praise be to the LORD, for he showed his wonderful love to me when I was in a besieged city.  
**In my alarm I said, "I am cut off from your sight!"**

Yet you heard my cry for mercy when I called to you for help.

**Love the LORD, all his saints!**

The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.

**Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the LORD.**

\* *Congregation is requested to stand, if able.*

***Angels, from the Realms of Glory***

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light:  
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:  
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:  
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.*

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One:  
*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.*

**Congregational Confession of Sin**

**Leader:** Father, we come before you to acknowledge our sin, because if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**All:** We confess that we have walked in darkness rather than living according to what you have revealed to us in your Word. We have sinned against you and our neighbors, and we are ashamed and sorry for how we have displeased you.

**Leader:** Forgive us, we pray, and renew our wills. We desire to be conformed more and more to the likeness of Christ; grant us grace and work in us by your Holy Spirit to that end.

**All:** Thank you for the assurance we have of forgiveness through the blood of our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

**Private Confession of Our Sins**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

Micah 7:18-19

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

## ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading\*

Isaiah 42:1-9

Congregational Response

Hymn 226

### *As with Gladness Men of Old*

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious God, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly cradle-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that cradle rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There forever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King. Amen.

## Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

**Q. 22.** *How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?*

**A.** Christ, the Son of God, became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

**Q. 23.** *What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?*

**A.** Christ, as our Redeemer, executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.

## Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

### Doxology\*

Hymn 732

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### 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.

# THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading\*

Luke 2:22-38

Congregational Response

(printed on p. 12)

## *Song of Simeon*

Now may your servant, Lord,  
According to your Word,  
Depart in exaltation.  
My peace shall be serene,  
For now my eyes have seen  
Your wonderful salvation.

O Lord, you did prepare  
For people ev'rywhere  
A Light for revelation,  
And radiant glory shall  
The gloom of death dispel  
For Israel, your nation. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Nunc Dimittis”  
Luke 2:22-38

## **GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE**

Hymn of Thanksgiving\*

Hymn 196

### *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy 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. Amen.

## **Benediction\***

### **Congregational Benediction Response\***

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

May the grace of Christ our Savior  
And the Father's boundless love,  
With the Holy Spirit's favor,  
Rest upon us from above.

Thus may we abide in union  
With each other and the Lord,  
And possess, in sweet communion,  
Joys which earth cannot afford. Amen.







# HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

*The daily reading schedule follows the One Year Bible Reading Plan.*

## **Monday, December 19**

Scripture: Zechariah 1:1 - 3:20; Revelation 10:1-11; Psalm 138:1-8; Proverbs 30:11-14

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 6

Pray for: Our federal, state, and local government leaders.

## **Tuesday, December 20**

Scripture: Haggai 1:1 - 2:23; Revelation 11:1-19; Psalm 139:1-24; Proverbs 30:15-16

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 57

Pray for: Our military, police, fire, and medical personnel.

## **Wednesday, December 21**

Scripture: Zechariah 1:1-21; Revelation 12:1-17; Psalm 140:1-13; Proverbs 30:17

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 58

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Kyrgyzstan and persecuted Christians.

## **Thursday, December 22**

Scripture: Zechariah 2:1 - 3:10; Revelation 13:1-18; Psalm 141:1-10; Prov. 30:18-20

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 59

Pray for: Our Elders, Deacons, Women's Ministry, & the PCA.

Our pregnant moms.

## **Friday, December 23**

Scripture: Zechariah 4:1 - 5:11; Revelation 14:1-20; Psalm 142:1-7; Proverbs 30:21-23

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 60

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.

## **Saturday, December 24**

Scripture: Zechariah 6:1 - 7:14; Revelation 15:1-8; Psalm 143:1-12; Proverbs 30:24-28

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 61

Pray for: The preaching and for our Sunday School teachers.

## **Sunday, December 25**

Scripture: Zechariah 8:1-23; Revelation 16:1-21; Psalm 144:1-15; Proverbs 30:29-31

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 62

Pray for: Our worship this morning.

## **MISSIONS CORNER**

*Pray for our missionaries. Their prayer requests are sent out through the Prayer Chain and their newsletters are published in Grace Notes as they become available.*

**Ray & Michele Call | Presbyterian Church in Belize**

[followtruth99@gmail.com](mailto:followtruth99@gmail.com)

**Dave & Darlene Eby | Africa Reformation Theol. Seminary Uganda**

[ebyuganda@gmail.com](mailto:ebyuganda@gmail.com)

We are no longer supporting the Dahlfreds financially. If you would like to receive their prayer letters directly, please email Karl Dahlfred and request to be added to their mailing list ([karlandsun@dahlfred.com](mailto:karlandsun@dahlfred.com)).

# **GATHERING for EVENING PRAYER and HYMNS**

**Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer**

**Hymn 208** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Prayer of Praise and Thanksgiving**

**Devotion** | Pastor Ben Muresan

**Prayer for the Lost**

**Hymn 472** “Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Wretched”

**Hymn 468** “My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

**Prayer of Supplication**

**Hymn 201** “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**Prayer for the Future**

**\*Hymn 203** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

**\*Closing Prayer**

## Song of Simeon

295

1. Now may your ser - vant, Lord, ac - cord - ing to your Word,  
 2. O Lord, you did pre - pare for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where

de - part in ex - al - ta - tion. My peace shall be se - rene,  
 a Light for rev - e - la - tion, and ra - diant glo - ry shall

for now my eyes have seen your won - der - ful sal - va - tion.  
 the gloom of death dis - pel for Is - ra - el, your na - tion.

Luke 2:29–32  
 Dewey Westra, 1931; alt.

NUNC DIMITTIS 6.6.7.D.  
 Louis Bourgeois, 1551  
 Harm. Claude Goudimel, 1564