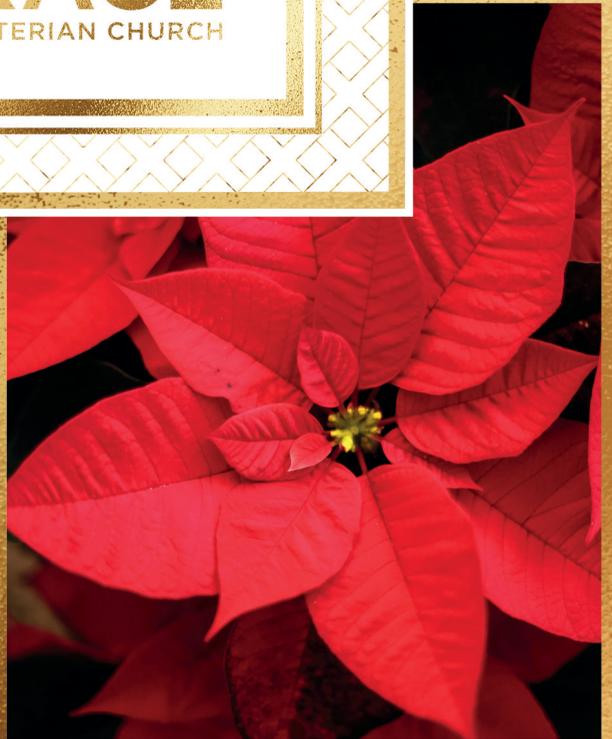


GRACE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace
among those with whom he is pleased!

Luke 2:14

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

ENTERING INTO WORSHIP

Greeting and Blessing*

Responsive Reading*

Psalm 72:1-19 (p. 810 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness.

He will judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice.

The mountains will bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

**He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy;
he will crush the oppressor.**

He will endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

He will be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

In his days the righteous will flourish, prosperity will abound till the moon is no more.

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.

The desert tribes will bow before him and his enemies will lick the dust.

The kings of Tarshish and of distant shores will bring tribute to him;

the kings of Sheba and Seba will present him gifts.

All kings will bow down to him and all nations will serve him.

For he will deliver the needy who cry out, the afflicted who have no one to help.

He will take pity on the weak and the needy and save the needy from death.

He will rescue them from oppression and violence, for precious is their blood in his sight.

Long may he live! May gold from Sheba be given him.

May people ever pray for him and bless him all day long.

Let grain abound throughout the land; on the tops of the hills may it sway.

Let its fruit flourish like Lebanon; let it thrive like the grass of the field.

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun.

All nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed.

Praise be to the LORD God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds.

Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory.

Amen and Amen.

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

The pastor will read the plain text; the congregation will read the bold text.

Hark! the Herald 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 Emmanuel.
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." Amen.

Congregational Confession of Sin

Leader: Gracious God, we approach you as your children, filled with your Holy Spirit by whom we are enabled and emboldened to cry, "Abba! Father!"

All: Though we approach as your children, we confess that we have not behaved as those who are called by your name. We have sinned against you and others, and it grieves us that we continually fall short of what your Word commands.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, and grant us grace to walk in your ways. Work in us by your Holy Spirit so that we will always seek to do what is pleasing in your sight.

All: We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our Prophet, Priest, and King, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Private Confession of Our Sins

Assurance of Forgiveness

Ezekiel 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

ADORATION AND PRAISE

First Reading*

Luke 2:1-21

Congregational Response

Hymn 214

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heav'nly song?

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Amen.*

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 57. *Which is the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment is “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.”

Q. 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment requires the keeping holy to God such set times as he has appointed in his Word; expressly one whole day in seven, to be a holy Sabbath to himself.

Q. 59. *Which day of the seven has God appointed to be the weekly Sabbath?*

A. From the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ, God appointed the seventh day of the week to be the weekly Sabbath; and the first day of the week ever since, to continue to the end of the world, which is the Christian Sabbath.

Q. 60. *How is the Sabbath to be sanctified?*

A. The Sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God’s worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Q. 61. *What is forbidden in the fourth commandment?*

A. The fourth commandment forbids the omission, or careless performance, of the duties required, and the profaning the day by idleness, or doing that which is in itself sinful, or by unnecessary thoughts, words, or works, about our worldly employments or recreations.

Q. 62. *What are the reasons attached to the fourth commandment?*

A. The reasons attached to the fourth commandment are, God’s allowing us six days of the week for our own employments, his challenging a special propriety in the seventh, his own example, and his blessing the Sabbath day.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Stewardship

Gloria Patri*

Hymn 734

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, 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.

✦ *Tithes and offerings may be placed in the box at the entrance to the sanctuary or given online through our church’s website.*

THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Second Reading*

Matthew 2:1-12

Congregational Response

Hymn 230

Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nward by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Christ Is King Over All Nations”
Matthew 2:1-12

GOD’S BLESSING ON HIS PEOPLE

Hymn of Thanksgiving*

Hymn 208

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;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels;
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above;
Glory to God in the highest;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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;
*O Come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. Amen.*

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Hymn 115, verse 5)

Let all things their Creator bless, and worship him in humbleness,
O praise him, alleluia! Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,
And praise the Spirit, three in One, O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Amen.

HOME WORSHIP GUIDE

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

Monday, December 15

Scripture: Micah 1:1 - 4:13; Revelation 6:1-17; Psalm 134:1-3; Proverbs 30:1-4

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 30

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

Tuesday, December 16

Scripture: Micah 5:1 - 7:20; Revelation 7:1-17; Psalm 135:1-21; Proverbs 30:5-6

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 30

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

Wednesday, December 17

Scripture: Nahum 1:1 - 3:19; Revelation 8:1-13; Psalm 136:1-26; Proverbs 30:7-9

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 31

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.
The churches in Bermuda and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, December 18

Scripture: Habakkuk 1:1 - 3:19; Revelation 9:1-21; Psalm 137:1-9; Proverbs 30:10

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 32

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

Friday, December 19

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

Catechism: The Westminster Shorter Catechism: Q/A 33

Pray for: Our members who have ongoing health care needs.
The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, 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 34

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

Sunday, 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 35

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 in the Dominican Republic

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

Prelude

Greeting and Call to Worship*

Psalm 111:1-4; 9-10

Leader: Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful.

All: He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Hymn*

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Hymn 196

Congregational Confession of Sin

Our God and Father, we approach your throne because we know that you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Forgive our sins and enable us to receive and rest in the truth that we have been justified by faith and have peace with you through our Lord Jesus Christ. Cause us to continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel. We ask all this through Jesus Christ, our risen and ascended Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!” Hymn 198

Scripture Reading*

Luke 1:39-56

Hymn

“Let Thy Blood in Mercy Poured” Hymn 429

Prayer

Sermon

“*Magnificat*”
Luke 1:46-55

Pastor Rudy Manrique

Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper

Hymn*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Hymn 194

Benediction*

Congregational Benediction Response*

(Sung to STUTTGART [Hymn 5])

Honor, glory, might, and merit, be to God and God alone!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One in Three and Three in One. Amen.



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