



 **GRACE**
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP SERVICE

December 15, 2024

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 84 (p. 814 in the *Trinity Hymnal*)

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty!

**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.**

Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may have her young—

a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.

Blessed are those whose strength is in you, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.

As they pass through the Valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rains also cover it with pools.

They go from strength to strength, till each appears before God in Zion.

Hear my prayer, O LORD God Almighty; listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Look upon our shield, O God; look with favor on your anointed one.

Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor;

no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

O Lord Almighty, blessed is the man who trusts in you.

** 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 1:26-38

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.

Confession of Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 42. *What is the sum of the Ten Commandments?*

A. The sum of the Ten Commandments is: to love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our strength, and with all our mind; and our neighbor as ourselves.

Q. 43. *What is the preface to the Ten Commandments?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments is in these words: “I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.”

Q. 44. *What does the preface to the Ten Commandments teach us?*

A. The preface to the Ten Commandments teaches us that because God is the Lord and our God and Redeemer, therefore we are bound to keep all his commandments.

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.

❖ *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*

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.*

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon

Pastor Ben Muresan

“Made Incarnate by the Holy Spirit”
Luke 1:26-38

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*

(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 16

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

Catechism: The Westminster Confession of Faith: Chapter 11

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

Tuesday, 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 39

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

Wednesday, 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 40

Pray for: Our covenant children and Christian military chaplains.

The churches in Tajikistan and persecuted Christians.

Thursday, 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 41

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

Friday, 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 42

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

The Shepherd's Church Plant in Riverside and the Manrique Family.

Saturday, 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 43

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

Sunday, 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 44

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 Belize

Dave Eby in Uganda

Christ Bible Institute in Japan

The Shepherd's Church in Riverside

EVENING GATHERING for PRAYER and HYMNS

Scripture Reading and Opening Prayer

Hymn 196 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Prayer of Praise and Gratitude

Devotion

Hymn 201 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Prayer for the Needs Among Us

Hymn 219 “All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord”

Prayer for Faith

Hymn 226 “As with Gladness Men of Old”

Prayer for Christ’s Church and The Shepherd’s Church Plant

Hymn 210 “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Closing Prayer



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