



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2018

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Raymond H. Haan

Canonic Variations on Infant Lowly, Infant Holy
Text and tune taken from Hymn #128

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Mary Turner
Michael Korak

L: "While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth
and laid him in a manger."

[leader continues]

Christ is born in our midst.

Christ lives in our midst.

Christ dwells with us forever more.

**P: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming to us this night.
Thank you for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor.
In every corner of the world, shine out this night with your peace.
In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace.**

Tonight we give thanks for the birth of Jesus,

Friend of all, Protector of the poor,

Treasure of the faithful, Word made flesh.

Renew our hope, O God,

so that we that we may receive the fullness of your grace

and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth! Christ is born! Alleluia!

L: We light the candle of Christ's birth for the infant-Redeemer,
the lowly-Lord. No longer do we seek light from another source,
but this light that now burns in our hearts.

We light it in the name of the one who is light and life.

We name this light Jesus.

P: Let us walk in the light of the Christ.

*HYMN #133

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

PRAYER OF ANTICIPATION (*unison*)

based on Luke 2:1-20

Living God,

on this holy night we gather —
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;
to wait the Joseph, trusting in your promise;
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

May the good news of this night inspire us
to tell the world of our great joy;
for to us is born a Savior,
the Messiah, the Lord.

(Time for silent prayer)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: On this night of rejoicing, renewal and reconciliation,
let us respond to the light of Christ that glows within each of us,
embracing one another in his name.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

*GLORIA #113 Angels we Have Heard on High, vs. 1

*Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

God's Word Is Proclaimed

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (*unison*)

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit,
teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words
and ponder them in our hearts;
through Jesus the Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

WORD FOR OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES

BLESSING

based on 1 John 4:4, 7

Little children, you are from God...

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God.

*(Infants and small children are dismissed to the care of the nursery staff.
Older children are invited to remain and worship.)*

FIRST LESSON

Psalm 96

(OT p.550)

L: The Word of the Lord. P: Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

(NT p.58)

L: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ P: Glory to you, O Lord.

SERMON

Rev. Mike Wilson

We Respond to God's Word

*HYMN #143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Inn was Full

Frances Williams

Mary and Joseph had traveled long, for the way was far o'er a rough terrain.

Mary was weary, and so they sought to rest in an inn in Bethlehem.

“The place is full” the keeper said as he turned away,

“Save for the cot in a stable stall, a place of straw and hay.”

“’Twas there that Mary laid down her head.

When behold the glory ‘round about a wondrous star shone bright as day,

Just o'er the place where Jesus lay.

The heavens rang, the angels sang praises, for Christ, the Lord, was born.

The wise men came, the shepherds too

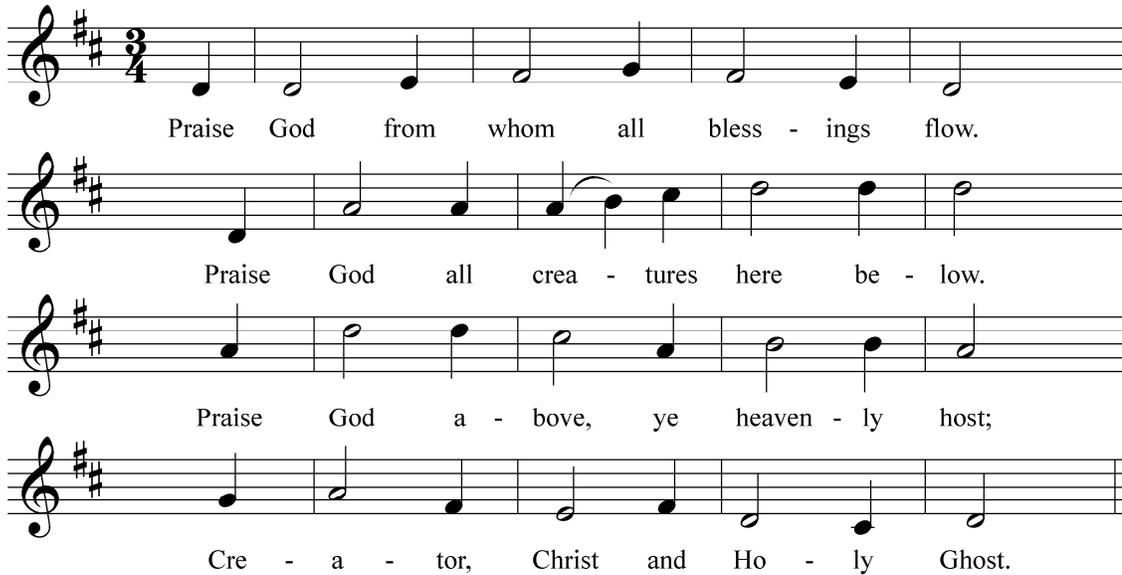
to worship the stranger in Bethlehem's manger.

The heavens rang, the angels sang praises, for Christ, the Lord, was born.

– Olive A. Rees

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow.

Praise God all crea - tures here be - low.

Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

Cre - a - tor, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (*unison*) based on Luke 2:12

We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made –
forest and field, sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given –
a little child lying in a manger.

Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise,
and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (people read **bold**)

May the God of silent nights be with you!

May the God of herald angels be with you!

Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

In the beginning the Word called all things into being.

And in the Word was life, a light that cannot be extinguished.

[The leader continues...]

So we pray that on this night of light,

that the Word as Spirit would transform this simple meal
into a feast of life - good and abundant and eternal.

And may we give thanks for it, joining the angel chorus saying,

“Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among all people.”

And now as children of light,

let boldly pray these words of life,

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Christ is host of this table.

Everyone, without exception, is invited to receive the Sacrament.

*We will come forward to receive communion by intinction,
taking a piece of bread and dipping it into the cup.*

You may eat as you are served.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Song of Mary

Harold Friedell

Bring not a crown to wear, upon His head so fair, He needs no gold upon His
shining hair, place not a scepter in His hands, for this my babe no glory
understands, nor shall he reign o'er earthly lands.

Bring not your incense sweet, to lay before His feet, for thrones shall pass and
kingly joys are fleet. Greet not my babe in homage deep, let no praise break
upon His sleep, like guarding angels, silence keep.

Bring Him your hearts alone, to God such gifts are known, the poor and meek the
Father calls His own, only your love and service bring, at gifts so sweet the
heavens sing, o enter now and greet your King!

— Leonard Young

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*unison*)

Loving God, we are grateful that this first meal of Christmas is a heavenly banquet, served by our Savior. Send us out nourished by his grace and truth, and help us to bring your light and life to all the world. Amen.

We Bear God's Word Into the World

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

*HYMN #122

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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. | 2. Silent Night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:
Christ the savior is born,
Christ the savior is born.” |
| 3. Silent Night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light,
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. | 4. Silent Night, holy night!
Wondrous start, lend thy light;
With the angels, let us sing,
Alleluia to our king;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born. |

L: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

P: **Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!**

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

L: Let all God's people say, P: **Merry Christmas! Amen!**

*CONGREGATIONAL BENEDICTION

HYMN

“Joy to the World”

You are invited leave the sanctuary singing.

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king.
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing...(3X)
2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy...(3X)
3. 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...(3X)
4. He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love...(3X)

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Fanfare on *Adeste Fideles*
Tune and text from Hymn #133

Gordon Young

Tonight's bulletin cover is by
DPC artist-in-residence Megan Lightell

Join us for worship tomorrow, Christmas Day,
at 10:00 a.m. in The Chapel.