



THE DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE 2019

(*) indicates the congregation will stand if able

We Gather in God's Name

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Weihnachtsbaum: IV* Adeste Fideles Franz Liszt
Text and tune take from Hymn #133
Tom Ashley and William Taylor, pianists

Choral Prelude on *Irby* H. J. Gauntlett
Text and tune take from Hymn #140
Amy Finka, Denny Harris, Edward Cardona, and
Glenda Harris, Samera Zavaro, handbells

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Isaiah 9:2-7

*HYMN #140 "Once in Royal David's City"

PRAYER OF ANTICIPATION (*unison*)

Now in the silence,
whisper of joy which comes into every life.
Now in the comfort of carols,
sing of hope which takes away our despair.
Now in familiar words heard anew,
speak to us of grace which is born into barren lives;
of peace which is birthed in war's shadowed fears.
Now, leaning next to those who have always been a part of us,
and those from whom we have been apart,
remind us of your heart
which always accepts us and always welcomes us.
Now in the love which is ours forever,
draw us closer to your heart,
so we can be surprised by wonder,
swaddled in serenity,
embraced by tenderness.
Now touch us once again with Christmas,
God in Community, Holy in One.

(Time for silent prayer)

PASSING THE PEACE

L: 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 — HYMN #487 “These Treasured Children,” vs. 4

*Come, Holy Spirit, help us be
a nurturing community;
empower us to realize
God's kingdom through our children's eyes*

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 #123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

THE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

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.

OPPORTUNITY FOR GENEROUS GIVING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Harold Darke

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

— Christina Rossetti

Amy Finka, soprano; Emlyn O'Regan, baritone

*DOXOLOGY #113

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*)

Now, on this night of giftedness,
remind us of those who struggle to put food on the table,
to buy a single gift for their child,
to wrap a warm blanket around a grandparent,
so we might realize how blessed we are
and share from our abundance.

In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

We Seal God's Word Upon Our Hearts

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT 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.

[*The minister continues...*]

As we gather tonight to once again come close to your Mystery
we join with the voices around us,
to sing praises to you this holy night:

**We will not be afraid, for great joy is ours this night;
we will look for the signs of your presence,
grace swaddled in hope,
love wrapped around broken hearts.**

**Glory to you, God in the highest heavens!
May peace fill the lives of all your children!**

[The minister continues...]

On this night, when we sing of the baby in the manger,
as the shadow of the cross is cast by the stars,
we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

**Christ is our light,
and we will join the angels in singing the good news;
Christ is our life,
and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;
Christ is our promise,
and we wait for the joy of his return.**

[The minister continues...]

THE 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

Lully, Lulla, Lullay

Philip Stopford

Lully, lulla, lully, lulla by by, lully lullay.

Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child by by, lully lullay.

O sisters too, how may we do for to preserve this day?

This poor youngling, for whom we sing by by, lully lullay.

Herod, the king, in his raging, charged he hath this day.
His men of might in his own sight all young children to slay.

That woe is me, poor Child for Thee, and ever morn and day.
For Thy parting neither say nor sing, By by, lully lullay.

– Words from a traditional 15th century carol

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 ready to tell his story – our story – to the world. Amen.

We Bear God's Word Into the World

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-14

*HYMN #122

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

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| 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

“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

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729
Tune taken from Hymn #132

J. S. Bach

Nursery Childcare

Nursery caregiver today is Suzie Lane. If childcare is needed anytime during the service, please see a greeter for assistance.

Tonight's bulletin cover, a painting called "Courage" is by
DPC artist-in-Residence Sarah Hart Landholt

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