



**The Downtown Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship for January 3, 2021
Second Sunday after Christmas Day**

Opening Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *The First Nowell*

Wilbur Held

Welcome

Call to Worship

Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, You who generate enduring hope,
You who fulfill promises,

Speak to us now.

Eternal Presence, Who was and is and is to be,

Reveal Yourself among us.

You who name us, the real us: Beloved, You who open the door to us,
through believing in Jesus Christ, to become children of God,

Show us the way, today.

Hymn

“The First Nowell” (vs. 1-2, 6)

Ryan Norris, cantor

Prayer of Confession (unison)

based on Luke 1:26-38

led by David Maddox

God of Nativity Light, Your people dwell in a land of looming darkness; truth is veiled, grace is scarce, pain is rampant, and griefs are mounting. How we need the light, not only at the end of the tunnel, but here at the start of 2021! Ten days after Christmas Eve, the muted glows of candles and hopes flicker upon the all-too-human stage. We, ourselves, fall prey to the daily weights of despair and we hear our voices echoing the chants of hopelessness. Alpha and Omega, remind us of the overarching promise of a saving way, its unaltered truth, and abundant life in Jesus. Give us sufficient grace for today and grow resounding trust in You and in one another, throughout our faith community. Increase in us a ready capacity to believe, to forgive one another, and to proclaim your good news, as Your beloved, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Silent prayer)

Assurance of God’s Grace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

Children’s Message

Suzie Lane

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:1-6

*At that time, declares the Lord,
I will be the God of all the families of Israel,
and they will be my people.
The Lord proclaims:
The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness.
As Israel searched for a place of rest,
the Lord appeared to them from a distance.
I have loved you with a love that lasts forever.
And so with unfailing love, I have drawn you to myself.
Again, I will build you up, and you will be rebuilt, virgin Israel.
Again, you will play your tambourines and dance with joy.
Again, you will plant vineyards on the hills of Samaria;
farmers will plant and enjoy the harvests.
The time will come when the watchmen shout from the highlands of Ephraim:
“Get ready! We’re going up to Zion to the Lord our God!”*

New Testament Reading

John 1:9-14

*The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.
The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn’t recognize the light.
The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn’t welcome him.
But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God’s children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.
The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.
We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father’s only son,
full of grace and truth.*

Sermon

Full of Grace and Truth

Rev. Ray Thomas

Hymn

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Ryan Norris, cantor

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer**The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper***Please use the bread and beverage of your choice*

Hymn

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

Ryan Norris, cantor

Charge and Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729
Melody for “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

J.S. Bach

Today’s Advent art is by DPC artist-in-residence Richard Feaster. About it he writes: My image *Testify The Light* is inspired from the reading from John 1:1-18 and specifically the notion of John's mission to "testify concerning the light".

147 The First Nowell, vs.1-2,6

1 The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

6 Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

459 O Word of God Incarnate

O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
we praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.

The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;
and still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life’s voyage through,
amid the rocks and quicksands still guides, O Christ, to you.

O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,
till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!