

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD
December 24, 2020 *Christmas Eve* **Six O'clock pm**

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God.

The people who have walked in darkness

PEOPLE: HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT.

Leader: They lived in a land of shadows,

PEOPLE: BUT NOW LIGHT IS SHINING ON THEM. (Isaiah 9:2)

***Hymn of Praise--**Maroon Hymnbook No. 170 "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;

Refrain:

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, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; [Refrain]

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son,
the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes,
the Savior of all, lying in a manger.

On this holy night

draw us into the mystery of your love.

Join our voices with the heavenly host

that we may sing your glory on high.

Give us a place among the shepherds

that we may find the one for whom we have waited,

Jesus Christ, the Messiah and Lord,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, forever and ever.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

ALL SING: Advent, Advent a candle burns Advent, Advent a candle burns

First one, then two, then three, then four

Then stands the Christ Child at the door

Leader: Here these words from Psalm 96. O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.

ALL: Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word—

ALL: spoken and breathed, a promise made and kept.

Leader: ALL: Glorify the Lord with me—

ALL: God's promise is true!

Leader :The Word was in the beginning, and through him all things come into being.

ALL: Eternal and near at hand,

Already and not-yet,

God's promise is the foundation of all life.

Leader : Tonight we relight the candles of Advent *(the four blue candles are lit)*

remembering that **In him was life and the life was the light of all people.**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can not over come it. *(~The Christ candle is lit~)*

ALL: Glory to God in the highest!

Response:

TUNE: O Worship the King

ALL SING: The Christ candle's light that shines for us here

Tells all the good news that God has come near!

God came, a poor baby, in one time and place,

To show all creation the wealth of God's grace.

***Call to Confession**

Leader: If we claim to be sinless, we are self-deceived and strangers to the truth.

If we confess our selfishness, God is just, and may be trusted to forgive our sins and cleanse us from every kind of wrong.

Let us admit our wrongs before God and our brothers and sisters:

***Corporate Confession of Sin**

ALL: Holy God, you bear such love for Your creation.

You feel our deepest pains and know our anxiety about the ultimate meaning and direction of our lives.

Still, we forget about You and go about our business of daily living.

We take pleasure in our gifts,

forgetting that You are the giver of all good gifts.

We turn away from sacrificing our gifts to Your service,

forgetting that You made the greatest sacrifice in the giving of Your Son Jesus Christ.

Forgive us. Let the Light of Christ glow in our hearts and minds

so that we might be prepared to share the Light

wherever we go. Amen.

***Declaration of Pardon**

Leader: Hear the good news. Jesus said anyone who hears what he says and trusts in God has eternal life.

The time is coming, indeed it is already here. All who heed God's voice shall have life. Friends believe the good news.

ALL: IN JESUS CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN.

Leader: Give thanks to God, for God is good,

ALL: GOD'S LOVE IS EVERLASTING.

***Response**

Tune: ANTIOCH C.M.

ALL: No more let sins and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found,

Far as, far as the curse is found.

The Story of the Nativity According to Luke

Solo -

"O Holy Night"

soloist: Abigail Lee-Wright

Luke 1:26-38 "The Annunciation"

Hymn – "People Look East"

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming

With the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Luke 1:39-45 "Mary Visits Elizabeth"

Luke 2:1-3 "In Those Days a Decree Went Out..."

Hymn-- "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
So God imparts in human hearts the blessing of His heaven
No ear can hear His coming But in this world of sin
Where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

Luke 2:4-7 "The Birth of Jesus"

Luke 2:8-14 "The Angel's Announcement"

Maroon Hymnbook No. 156 vs. 1 "The First Noel"

The first Noel 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:

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

Luke 2:15 "The Shepherds"

Hymn --

"Angels We Have Heard..."

Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis Deo Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new born King.
Gloria in ex-cel-sis Deo Gloria in ex-cel-sis Deo

Angels we have on heard high, Sweetly singing ore the plain
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains
Gloria in excelsis Deo

Luke 2:16-19 "Christ is Born"

Hymn: --

"What Child Is This"

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Luke 2:20 "And the Shepherds Returned"

Hymn --

"Angels We Have Heard..."

Shepherds why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o

Prayer

Processional to the Church – “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” vs 1 & 4

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2 Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface [Refrain]

Following the carol we move inside the church. Please be sure to wear your mask.

Offering of Gifts of the People

Offering of Music:

**SEALING OF THE WORD
THE LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

***Preparation of the Table**

***The Invitation to the Lord's Table**

*(The Presbyterian Church invites all those who have confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and been baptized,
to share in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.)*

Pastor: This is the joyful feast of the people of God!

PEOPLE: THEY WILL COME FROM EAST AND WEST,
AND FROM NORTH AND SOUTH,

AND SIT AT TABLE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD. (Luke 13:29)

Pastor: This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites...recognized him. (Lk 24)

***The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer**

Salutation:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Sursum corda: (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE GOD THANKS AND PRAISE.

Preface: Thanksgiving for God's whole work of salvation.

Thanksgiving for redemption in Jesus Christ

Anamnesis: Remembrance and Commemoration

Thanksgiving for the Gift of the Holy Spirit

***The Lord's Prayer** (debts and debtors)

Words of Institution (I Corinthians 11)

Pastor: The Lord Jesus on the night...do this remembering me.”

Remember the words of Jesus: “This is my body.”

PEOPLE: WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST.

Pastor: In the same way....do this remembering me.”

Remember the words of Jesus: “This cup is the new covenant.”

PEOPLE: WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE NEW COVENANT.

The Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Wine
The Communion
Offering of Music

Postcommunio: *Thanksgiving after the Supper*

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

PEOPLE: AMEN

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

PEOPLE: AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME BLESS GOD'S HOLY NAME!

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul;

PEOPLE: AND FORGET NOT ALL GOD'S BENEFITS.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Supper**

Procession Carols (as we move outside):

"It Came Upon A Midnight..."

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all!
Christ the babe is Lord of all!

2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you!
Christ the babe was born for you!

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1 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 hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. [Refrain]

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

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.

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.

"Good Christian Men..."

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

2 Good Christian Men, 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!

3 Good Christian Men, 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 his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

