

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD
December 24, 2003
9:00 pm

Christmas Eve

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Prelude

Members of Chancel Choir
Festival Brass
Colin Howland, Organ
Stephen Nielson, Piano

Call to Worship

The Rev. Joseph Ryan

Minister: Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

People: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder:

Minister: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

*Carol No. 208

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

*Prayer of Adoration
concluding with

Dr. Ryan

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind; let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore, let my conscience be bathed in an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father; place me with ox, camel and goat, to look with them upon my Redeemer's face, and in Him account myself delivered from sin; let me with Simeon clasp the newborn child to my heart, embrace Him with undying faith, exulting that He is mine and I am His. In Him, You have given me so much that heaven can give no more. Amen!

*Carol of Praise No. 214 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

Public Confession

O Source of all good, we render to You, gift of gifts, only an impoverished soul. Before Your wisdom, we are undone, with no will to return to You, and no intellect to devise recovery. You came, God-incarnate, to save us to the uttermost, as man to die our death, to shed satisfying blood on our behalf, to work out a perfect righteousness for us. Meanwhile, we live in selfishness, hard-heartedness, with a stiff-necked and unforgiving spirit. We are correct when we say, "There is no health in us." We beg You, through Your incarnate life and willing sacrifice, to pardon and blot out our sins. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Silent Confession

Song of Faith

"Mary, Did You Know?"
Adam Bell, *Tenor*; Lauren Bell, *Soprano*

M. Lowry

Assurance of Forgiveness

Minister: Almighty God, who does freely pardon all who repent and turn to Him, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace, remitting all our sins, and cleansing us from an evil conscience through the perfect sacrifice of Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Musical Offering

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
Mr. Nielson

HYFRYDOL
arr. Nielson

*Carol No. 203

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

MENDELSSOHN

*Christmas Eve Greeting of Peace

Song of Praise

"O Holy Night"
Taylor Hargrave and Mason McCamey, *Tenors*
Stephen Nielson, *Piano*

CANTIQUE DE NOEL

*Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9.2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. You have multiplied the nation; You have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

Christmas Eve Meditation "The Mighty God Revealed and Concealed" Dr. Ryan

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9.6

*Carol

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

STILLE NACHT

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.

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.

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Closing Proclamation "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

*Christmas Blessing

Dr. Ryan

Minister: May the God of peace Himself make you holy in every way and
may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete at the
coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: *(with a loud voice)* Thanks be to God for His indescribable
gift! AMEN!

Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"
Mr. Howland, Organ

arr. Myron Roberts

*The Congregation stands.

*There are baskets located at the doorways for tonight's
offering which will be given to the Ministerial Relief Fund
of the Presbyterian Church in America to assist retired and
disabled pastors and missionaries and their dependent children.*

MUSICIANS

Taylor Hargrave, Mason McCamey, Adam Bell, Lauren Bell, *Soloists*
Members of the Chancel Choir
Stephen Nielson, *Piano*; Festival Brass of Dallas
Colin Howland, *Organ*; Robert Rucker, *Director*