



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2011

9:30 and 11:00 am

CHRISTMAS DAY

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.

We Prepare Our Hearts

"The LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him."

Habakkuk 2.20

Preparation for Worship Christmas Medley *arr. Nielson & Young*
"Carol of the Bells/Angels We Have Heard on High"
Stephen Nielson, *piano* • J. Marty Cope, *organ*

We Come to Worship at His Bidding

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!"

Psalm 150.6

Call to Worship

The Rev. Mark Davis

Minister: And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.

People: **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

Minister: And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

People: **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"**

Luke 2.10-14

We Praise and Profess Our Faith in God

"My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever." *Psalm 145.21*

***Hymn No. 214**

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

GLORIA

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Confession of Faith**

The Rev. Tommy Overton 9:30
The Rev. Patrick Lafferty 11:00

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him. But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1.1-5, 9-14

***Carol Medley**

No. 224	“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”	GO TELL IT
No. 204	“Away in a Manger”	MUELLER
No. 207	“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”	IN DULCI JUBILO

Public Confession of Sin

Our God and Father, when we behold Your Son Jesus, we see Your great love for us, for You sent Your one and only Son into the world to die for sinners like us, so that whoever believes in Him would have eternal life. Since You have given Your Son, we can say with the apostle Paul, “how will You not also with Christ graciously give us all things?” Yet, our Father, our appetite for things of secondary or even of no importance fills our lives with longings that You never intended us to have. Our love and devotion to our possessions and our pleasures reveal again our true need for Jesus. Lord, in this Christmas season would You please give us Christ: fill our hearts with desire to know Him, to love Him, to serve and follow Him; fill our mouths with words to honor Him and proclaim Him; give us His presence to guide us in wisdom, to give peace to our troubled souls, to guard and protect our ways; grant us His grace and favor to forgive our sins, and to bring us to glory.

Silent Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. Isaiah 40:1-2

Carol of Praise “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Musical Offering "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" WALTHAM
Caroline Nielson, soprano • Stephen Nielson, piano arr. Nielson

***The Greeting of Peace**

Minister: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill
toward men! The peace of the Lord be with you always. Luke 2.14
People: **And also with you.**

The Service of Friendship

***The Scripture Reading**

John 10.1-18; 27-30

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens. The sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure of speech Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. ¹¹ I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷ For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one."

The Morning Sermon "He Came to Give Abundant Life"

Mr. Davis

***Closing Hymn No. 195** "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

ANTIOCH

*The Benediction

Minister: The joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the Magi, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of Christ be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Postlude

"Joy to the World"
Mr. Nielson, piano • Mr. Cope, organ

arr. Larry Dalton

*The congregation stands.

The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the majestic glory of God and in thanksgiving for my precious family by Elizabeth Figari. Together, we rejoice in His greatest gift!

*"For to us a child is born; to us a Son is given He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9.6*

Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists to extend the transforming presence of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas and to the world.

Sunday School Communities

Sunday School Communities are not meeting today with one exception: The Go! Group will meet at 11:00 am in Room 305 as usual.

Personal Prayer and Counsel

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor . . . rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality." Romans 12.10, 12, 13

We want so much to come alongside you in brotherly love and hospitality by your allowing us to be in prayer for your salvation or any need you may have. Please join us in the Parlor (north of Fellowship Hall) following the worship service where our Elders and prayer leaders are available and eager to meet with you and pray with you in complete confidence.

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 25, 2011

Praise

Call to Worship *(everyone together)*

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" *(sing or say these words together)*

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Hearing and Learning God's Word

Scripture Reading: John 10.1-18; 27-30 *(one person read the Scripture aloud)*

Questions for Discussion *(may be answered in one worship time or spread over several times)*

1. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
2. In John 10.10, why did Jesus say He came?
3. What is abundant life?
4. How can you have abundant life?
5. How does the thief steal, kill and destroy?
6. How did Jesus lay down His life for the sheep?
7. How is Jesus the greatest gift of Christmas?

Questions for older children

1. How is Jesus the Good Shepherd?
2. What does He do as the Good Shepherd?
3. How have you experienced the work of the thieves?
4. How does this passage encourage you?

Scripture Memory for December *(memorize these verses of Scripture this month)*

Luke 1:30-33

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Prayer

Prayer *(saying together)*

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.

SERMON NOTES

John 10.1-18; 27-30

“He Came to Give Abundant Life”