



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 20, 2015

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am

Fourth Sunday of Advent

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.

The Prelude

8:00	"In Dulci Jubilo"	<i>arr. Max Drischner</i>
9:30/11:00	"Sinfonia" from <i>Messiah</i>	<i>George Frideric Handel</i>

The Call to Worship

The Rev. Ron Williams 8:00
The Rev. Mark Davis 9:30/11:00

Minister: I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us,

People: And the great goodness to the house of Israel that He has granted them according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

Minister: For He said, "Surely they are My people, children who will not deal falsely." And He became their Savior.

People: In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the angel of His presence saved them; in His love and in His pity He redeemed them; He lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Isaiah 63.7-9

*Carol No. 218 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory" *REGENT SQUARE*

*Prayer of Adoration

***Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Chad Scruggs 8:00

The Rev. Bill Lamberth 9:30

The Rev. Paul Goebel 11:00

Minister: What does it mean that He “was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary”?

**People: That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains
true and eternal God,
took to Himself,
through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human
nature so that He might also become David’s true descendant,
like His brothers and sisters in every way except for sin.**

Heidelberg Catechism, question 35

***Carol No. 225**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

IRBY

Stanzas: 1, 2, 4, 5

The Sacrament of Baptism

9:30/11:00

Parental Vows

1. Do you acknowledge your children’s need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God’s covenant promises on their behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for their salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your children to God, and promise, in humble reliance upon divine grace, that you will endeavor to set before them a godly example, that you will pray with and for them, that you will teach them the doctrines of our holy religion, and that you will strive, by all the means of God’s appointment, to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?

Congregational Vow

Do you as a congregation undertake the responsibility of assisting these parents in the Christian nurture of their children?

9:30

11:00

Elizabeth Fairfax Beasley
Stiehl Jonathan Leonard
Thomas Warren Bell
Zoey Jane Pogoloff

William Lee Henry
Olivia Grace Inman
Hunter McKenzie Seals

Prayer for the Families

9:30/11:00

Mr. Kirk Pogoloff 9:30

Mr. Davis 11:00

9:30/11:00



A - way in a — man - ger, no crib for a bed, the —
 The cat - tle are — low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but
 Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I — ask Thee to stay close



lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head; The
 lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing He makes; I
 by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless



stars in the — bright sky looked down where He lay, the
 love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look — down from the sky, and
 all the dear chil - dren in — Thy ten - der care, and



lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 stay by my cra - dle till — morn - ing is nigh.
 fit us for heav - en, to — live with Thee there.

Public Confession of Sin

Minister: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

**People: O God, we live as if the light
 had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Minister: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

**People: We confess that we ignore Christ,
 the One You sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
 and thick darkness the peoples;
 but the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen
 upon you.

**People: We've kept the birth of Your Son confined to the Christmas
 season and do not yearn for His birth each moment in our
 waiting hearts.**

Minister: And nations shall come to Your light,
 and kings to the brightness of Your rising.

**People: Lord, You came to us in the fullness of time.
 Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Your coming.
 May we prepare for Your coming.
 Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth.
 Let us all rejoice in the miracle of the Incarnation.
 Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

—based on Isaiah 60.1-3

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell securely. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."
Jeremiah 33.15-16

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Scruggs 8:00
Mr. Lamberth 9:30
Mr. Goebel 11:00

Musical Offering

8:00 "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor" *French Carol*
QUELLE EST CETTE ODEUR AGRÉABLE
Bryan Varenkamp, *piano* *arr. B. Varenkamp*

9:30/11:00 "And the Glory of the Lord" from *Messiah* *G.F Handel*
Chancel Choir • J. Marty Cope, *conductor*

*And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Isaiah 40.5*

*The Greeting of Peace

Minister: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you always. *2 Corinthians 4.6*

People: **And also with you.**

The Service of Friendship

*The Scripture Reading

Luke 2.8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
⁹ *And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.*
¹⁰ *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.*
¹¹ *For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*
¹² *And this will be a sign for you: you will find a Baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."*
¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*
¹⁴ *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please
continue at the closing hymn on page six.

***The Great Thanksgiving 8:00 only**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere
to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty,
Everlasting God.

**People: Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the
company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name;
evermore praising You, and singing:**

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho-
san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing 8:00**

***The Words of Institution 8:00**

The Communion 8:00

*Please come forward down the center aisle.
Partake of the elements upon receiving them from the elders.
Return to your seat with your empty cup via the side aisle.*

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 20, 2015

Praise

Call to Worship *(everyone together)*

I will recount the steadfast love of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that He has granted them according to His compassion, according to the abundance of His steadfast love.

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” *(read or sing these words together)*

Please see the hymn text on page eight.

Hearing and Learning God’s Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 2.8-14 *(one person read the Scripture aloud)*

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

1. What does “Hark” mean?
2. What is an herald?
3. What was the message from these messengers?
4. What all can we learn about Jesus from “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”?
5. What did the shepherds do after they received the message about Jesus?
6. How should we respond to the news of the Angels?

Questions for older children

1. What does it mean to have an absurd Christmas?
2. Why is it so hard to listen to the true meaning of Christmas?
3. Which is your favorite line about Jesus in “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”? Why?

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

Isaiah 9.6

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.

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *(say 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

Luke 2.8-14

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King.”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. [*Refrain*]

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth. [*Refrain*]

"Hark, how all the welkin rings"

Charles Wesley manuscript, 1745-46
Richmond College Manuscript Hymn Book

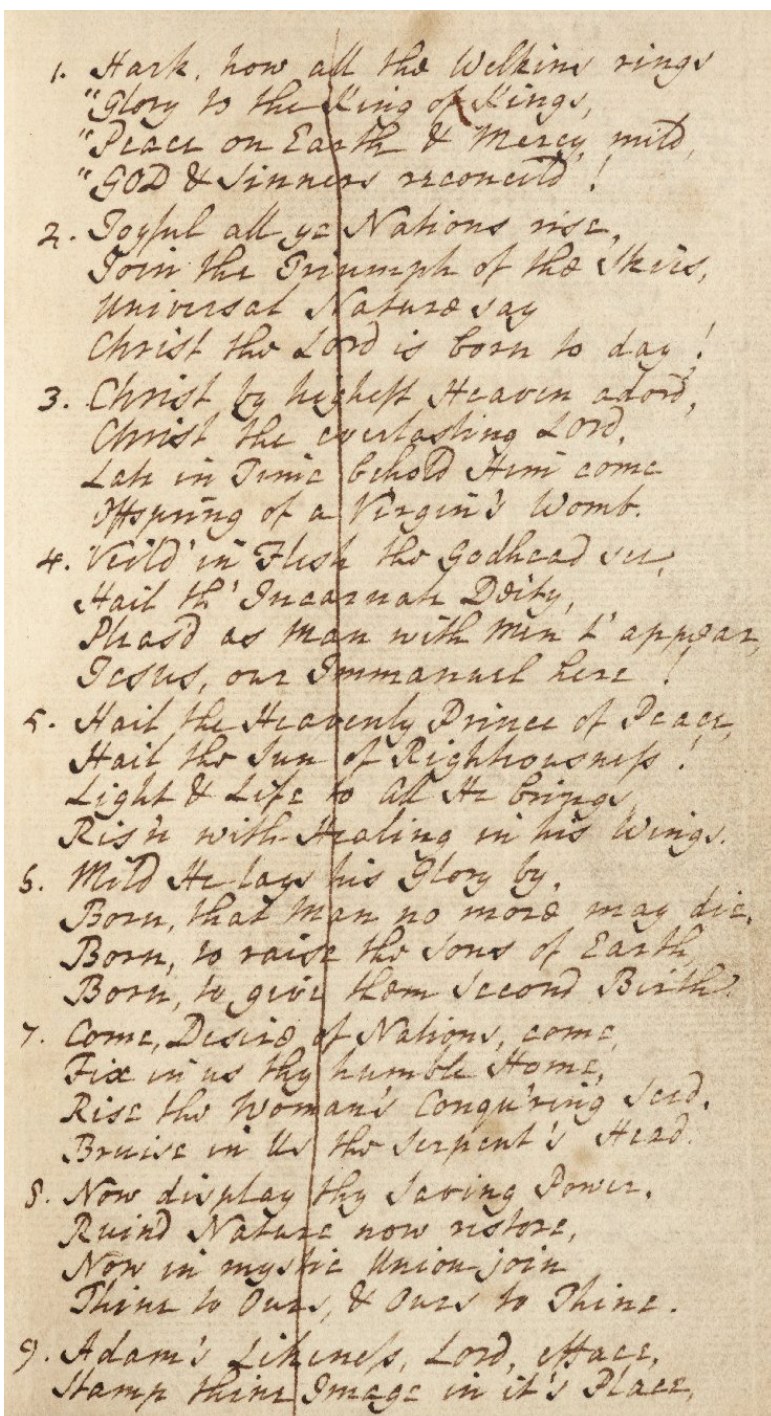


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