

Park Cities Presbyterian Church

December 31, 2017

Epiphany Sunday

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 31, 2017
9:30 and 11:00 am

Epiphany Sunday

Prelude

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Harold Darke

Caroline Nielson, *mezzo soprano* • Stephen Nielson, *piano*

arr. S. Nielson

Call to Worship

The Rev. Robby Higginbottom

Minister: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims
His handiwork.

People: Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

Minister: There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.

**People: Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the
end of the world. In them He has set a tent for the sun.** Psalm 19:1-4

*Carol of Epiphany

“The First Noel”

THE FIRST NOEL



And by the light of the East - ern Star three
Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, full
Then let us all with one ac - cord sing



Wise Men came from coun - try far; To
rev - 'rent - ly up - on their knee, and
prais - es to our heav - 'nly Lord that



seek for a King was their in - tent, And to
of - fered there in His pres - ence their
hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and



fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
with His blood man - kind hath bought.

Refrain



No - el, No - el, No - el, No - el!



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

***Prayer of Adoration concluding with**

Almighty Lord God,

You gave Your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world:

We praise and magnify Your holy name that in Him

You have revealed the wonder of Your saving love to all people.

With those of old who brought their tribute to His feet,

confessing Him as King of heaven and earth,

we now present the worship of our grateful hearts,

asking You to give us grace to give ourselves to You,

through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Musical Meditation “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
Mr. Nielson, *piano*

WALTHAM
arr. S. Nielson

Public Confession of Sin

The Rev. Tommy Overton 9:30

The Rev. Bill Lamberth 11:00

O God, in the beginning You spoke,

and creation was born, the object of Your loving care.

In the fullness of time You spoke,

and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of Your love.

We wonder at the miracle of creation;

we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.

Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith,

empty of hope, lacking in love, falling short of Your righteousness.

Let me with Simeon clasp the new-born child to my heart,

embrace Him with undying faith,

exulting that He is mine and I am His.

We wait upon You with ready hearts, O God,

through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

John 15:5, 8

***Carol No. 201**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

Musical Offering

“Cradle Carol” *Rebekah Pringle/Dan Forrest*
Ms. Nielson, Mr. Nielson

***The Greeting of Peace**

Minister: This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. The Peace of the Lord be with you always. John 15.12-13

People: And also with you.

The Service of Friendship

If you are seated on the left end of the pew, please take the Service of Friendship pad, fill out the information and pass it down. When it arrives at the other end of the pew, pass it back, taking note of those who are seated in your row.

***The Scripture Reading**

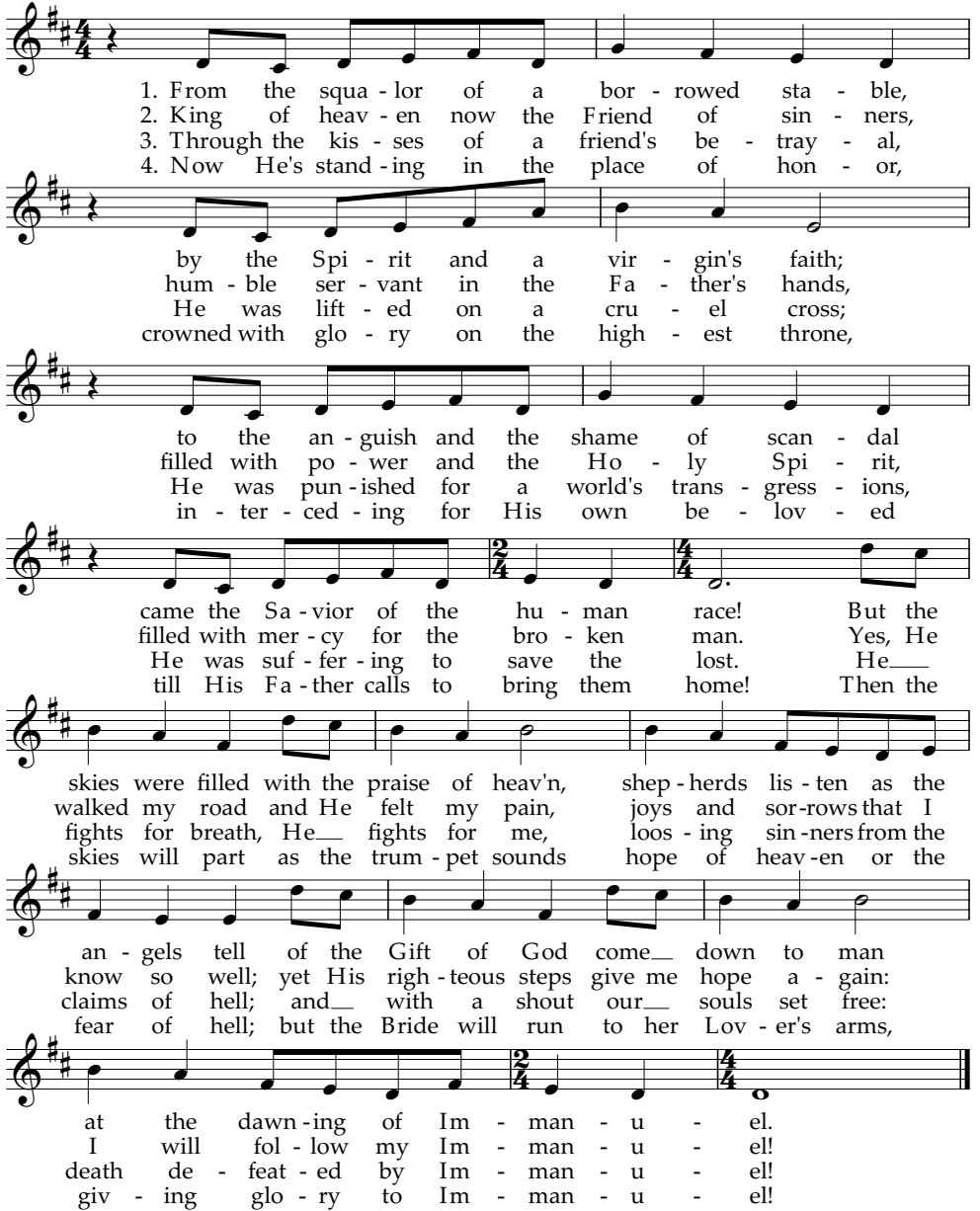
Luke 2.22-35

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord
²³ *(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”)*
²⁴ *and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.”*
²⁵ *Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.*
²⁶ *And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.*
²⁷ *And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the Law,*
²⁸ *he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said,*
²⁹ *“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;*
³⁰ *for my eyes have seen Your salvation*
³¹ *that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*
³² *a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel.”*
³³ *And His father and His mother marveled at what was said about Him.*
³⁴ *And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed*
³⁵ *(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”*

*Closing Hymn

“From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable”

Townend



1. From the squalor of a bor - rowed sta - ble,
 2. King of heav - en now the Friend of sin - ners,
 3. Through the kis - ses of a friend's be - tray - al,
 4. Now He's stand - ing in the place of hon - or,
 by the Spi - rit and a vir - gin's faith;
 hum - ble ser - vant in the Fa - ther's hands,
 He was lift - ed on a cru - el cross;
 crowned with glo - ry on the high - est throne,
 to the an - guish and the shame of scan - dal
 filled with po - wer and the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
 He was pun - ished for a world's trans - gress - ions,
 in - ter - ced - ing for His own be - lov - ed
 came the Sa - vior of the hu - man race! But the
 filled with mer - cy for the bro - ken man. Yes, He
 He was suf - fer - ing to save the lost. He
 till His Fa - ther calls to bring them home! Then the
 skies were filled with the praise of heav'n, shep - herds lis - ten as the
 walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and sor - rows that I
 fights for breath, He fights for me, loos - ing sin - ners from the
 skies will part as the trum - pet sounds hope of heav - en or the
 an - gels tell of the Gift of God come down to man
 know so well; yet His righ - teous steps give me hope a - gain:
 claims of hell; and with a shout our souls set free:
 fear of hell; but the Bride will run to her Lov - er's arms,
 at the dawn - ing of Im - man - u - el.
 I will fol - low my Im - man - u - el!
 death de - feat - ed by Im - man - u - el!
 giv - ing glo - ry to Im - man - u - el!

*The Benediction

Minister: May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you,
 that your lives may be a light to the world;
 and the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among you and remain with you always.

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

**Please stand if you are able.*

The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the PCPC Pastoral staff and their administrative support team.

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

MINISTERS

The members of this church family who, in serving their Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, extend His Kingdom in Dallas and to the world.



Welcome to Park Cities Presbyterian Church. We are glad you joined us today.

We want to come alongside you in hospitality and prayer. At the conclusion of our services, there are men and women at the front and back of the sanctuary to meet and pray with you—in complete confidence.

If you are experiencing an unexpected pregnancy, you are loved. For support, please speak with us or call Thrive Women’s Clinic at 214-343-9263 or Kari Stainback at 214-224-2738.

“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

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Mark Davis

Session/Associate Pastors

Joe Abbate, <i>Clerk</i>	Mark Fulmer	Gregory Morris
John Bateman	The Rev. Paul Goebel	David Newman
The Rev. Mark Davis, <i>Moderator</i>	John Hawkins	Boots Nowlin
Dr. Pete Deison	Eric Horan	Rob Sayles
Jack Denman	Houston Hunt	The Rev. Chad Scruggs
Don Dillahunty	Ed Jarrett	Gil Sheehan
Pete Flowers	Tim Jeffress	

Assistant Pastors

The Rev. Ron Williams	The Rev. Brent Baker
The Rev. Bill Lamberth	The Rev. Robby Higginbottom
The Rev. Tommy Overton	The Rev. Matt Fray

Executive Director

Jeff Barber

Shepherding Elders

*(Elders not currently on the Session but
active in ministry at Park Cities Presbyterian Church)*

Tommy Bain	David Gowdey	Bobby Payne
Alan Balsler	Pat Hamner	Kirk Pogoloff
Brad Bradley	Harry Hargrave	Irv Queal
Frank Bullock	John Harper	Bob Rasberry
David Burgher	Bob Heinonen	Mike Skinner
Rick Bush	David Horn	Nelson Somerville
Kit Case	Kent Johnson	Dick Steele
George Chapman	Russell Johnson	Dan Stewart
Jim Chenoweth	Bryan Keyes	Tracy Taylor
Doug Chesnut	Don King	Bill Thomas
Grady Crosland	Louie Little	Jay Turner
Marvin Culbertson	Bill Mabus	Steve Vanderhill
Charles Debter	Jim Madden	Ron Wideman
John Denman	Bob McCamey	Steve Williamson
Curt Dobbs	Mike McMahan	Jeff Wilson
Bert Ehrmann	Robert Mighell	Tim Wilson
Bill Farrell	Henry Morgan	Arthur Wood
Paul Flowers	Pat Moore	Randy Wood
Will Francis	Stephen Nielson	
David Franklin	Rick Owens	

SERMON NOTES

Luke 2.22-35

Signs and Wonders
“The Conflict of Christmas”

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 31, 2017

Praise

Call to Worship *(everyone together)*

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

“From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable” *(read or sing these words together)*

Please see the hymn on page five.

Hearing and Learning God’s Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 2.22-35 *(one person read the Scripture aloud)*

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

1. For what is Simeon waiting? Why?
2. How does Simeon respond when he sees the baby Jesus?
3. What does Simeon say that would lead Mary and Joseph to marvel? to worry?
4. What does Jesus have to do with people “falling” or “rising”?
5. When we are not waiting for the Lord, where are we tempted to place our hope?
6. After meeting Jesus, Simeon basically says that he is ready to die. Are we?
7. How should Christians relate to suffering as they follow Jesus?

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

Luke 2.15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.”¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger.¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this Child.¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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.