

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 23, 2018
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

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.*

Prelude

“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”
Dr. Nathan Davy, organ

John Rutter

*During the Prelude, please join in silent preparation
of heart and mind to worship our God.*

Call to Worship

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

Minister: His mercy is for those who fear Him

People: from generation to generation.

Minister: He has shown strength with His arm;

People: He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

Minister: He has brought down the mighty from their thrones

People: and exalted those of humble estate;

Minister: He has filled the hungry with good things,

People: and the rich He has sent away empty.

from Mary’s canticle, the *Magnificat*, Luke 1:50-53

***Carol No. 203**

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Profession of Faith**

Dr. Pete Deison 8:00

The Rev. Paul Goebel 9:30

The Rev. Robby Higginbottom 11:00

**Have this mind among yourselves,
which is yours in Christ Jesus,
who, though He was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied Himself,
by taking the form of a servant,
being born in the likeness of men.
And being found in human form,
He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death,
even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted Him
and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

Philippians 2:5-9 (10-11)

***Carol No. 213**

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

The Sacrament of Baptism

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?

Katherine Ruth Foose

Prayer for the Family

11:00

Public Confession of Sin

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,
for though Jesus came so that we might be Your sons and daughters,
we have been wayward children,
lacking in our love for You and for one another.
This year, would You lift the veil from our eyes,
so that we might behold Jesus for who He really is,
the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Great I Am!
We wait upon You with ready hearts, O merciful God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

***Carol No. 227** “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” *SUSSEX CAROL*
Stanza 1: Choir • Stanzas: 2-4: Congregation

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer Dr. Deison 8:00
Mr. Goebel 9:30
Mr. Higginbottom 11:00

Musical Offering

8:00 “Of the Father’s Love Begotten” *Wilbur Held*
 Dr. Davy, *organ*

9:30/11:00 "Shepherd's Pipe Carol" John Rutter
Chancel Choir • J. Marty Cope, *director* • Dr. Davy, *organ*

*Going through the hills on a night all starry, on the way to Bethlehem
far away I heard a shepherd boy piping on the way to Bethlehem.*
*REFRAIN: Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: 'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and He's
lying cradled there at Bethlehem.'*
*'Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so merrily on the way to Bethlehem,
who will hear your tunes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?'*
*'None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem;
but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem.'*

*REFRAIN: Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger
where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of His mother Mary, sleeping
now at Bethlehem.*

'Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily, 'Is He there at Bethlehem?'

'I will find Him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem.'

'May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily, come with you to Bethlehem?'

Pay my homage too at the new King's cradle, is it far to Bethlehem?'

*REFRAIN: Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: 'Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the King is born this night in lowly stable yonder, born for you
at Bethlehem.'*

***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 Scripture Reading**

Luke 2.10-11; Lamentations 3.19-23; Ephesians 2.4-9

Luke 2.10-11

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."

Lamentations 3.19-23

Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall!

²⁰ *My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.*

²¹ *But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:*

²² *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end;*

²³ *they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

Ephesians 2.4-9

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us,

⁵ *even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—*

⁶ *and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,*

⁷ *so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,*

⁹ *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

The Sermon

THE KING'S CAROLS
"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

Mr. Williams 8:00
Mr. Davis 9:30/11:00

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

***The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

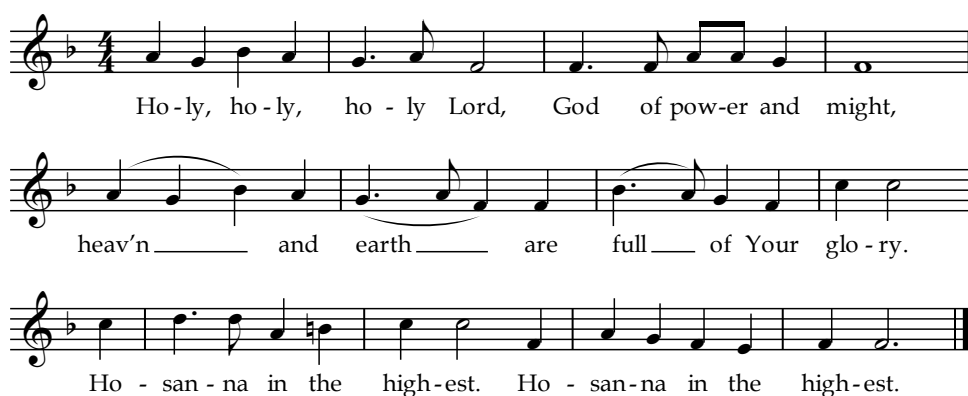
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

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:



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

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.*

***Closing Carol No. 224**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

***The Benediction**

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60.1

People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Postlude

8:00

“Noel Suisse”
Dr. Davy, *organ*

Louis Claude Daquin

9:30-11:00

“Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts”
from *Christmas Oratorio*
Mr. Cope, *organ*

Camille Saint-Saëns

**Please stand if you are able.*

*The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the glory
of God and in memory of Fred Skidmore and Marion Fersing
with love from the Fersing family.*

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

*If you would like to donate the Sanctuary worship flowers in
honor or memory of a loved one, go to pcpc.org/flowers.*



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

SERMON NOTES

THE KING'S CAROLS

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”

Luke 2.10-11; Lamentations 3.19-23; Ephesians 2.4-9

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 23, 2018

Praise

Call to Worship: *(everyone together)*

And His mercy is for those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty.

Luke 1.50-53

“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” *(read or sing these words together)*

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Hearing and Learning God's Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 2.10-11; Lamentations 3.19-23; Ephesians 2.4-9
(one person read the Scripture aloud)

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

1. How does Ephesians 2 describe God's wealth? He is rich in...
2. What is mercy?
3. Why is Jesus called the Merciful King?
4. How often does Lamentations 3 tell us God gives us mercy?
5. How can this good news help us when we are sad?

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

Luke 2.11-14

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!”

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.