

*He was poor that He might make us rich.  
He was born of a virgin that we might be born of God.  
He took our flesh that He might give us His Spirit.  
He lay in the manger that we might lie in paradise.  
He came down from heaven that He might bring us to heaven . . .  
that the Ancient of Days should be born,  
—that He who thunders in the heavens should cry in the cradle,  
—that He who rules the stars should suck the breast,  
—that a virgin should conceive,  
—that Christ should be made of a woman, and of that woman  
which Himself made,  
—that the branch should bear the vine,  
—that the mother should be younger than the Child she bore,  
and the Child in the womb bigger than the mother,  
—that the human nature should not be God, yet one with God:  
this was not only amazing but miraculous.*

Thomas Watson (1620-1686)

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 17, 2023  
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

*Third Sunday of Advent*

## Welcome and Announcements

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

## The Prelude

8:00 "Christ the Word to Earth Descendeth" Flor Peters  
Mary Preston, organ

9:30/11:00 "The Huron Carol" Denis Bedard  
Dr. Nathan Davy, organ

## \*Call to Worship

Minister: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;  
then shall the lame man leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

**People: For waters break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;**

Minister: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given;

**People: and the government shall be upon His shoulder,  
and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Isaiah 35:5-6; 9:6

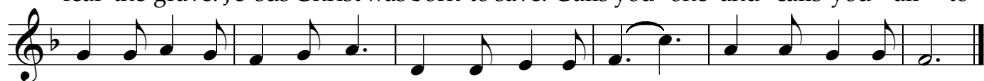
\*Carol of Praise "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" IN DULCI JUBILO  
Hymn No.207 in the Trinity Hymnal



1. Good Christ-ian men, re - joice, \_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice; \_\_\_ give ye heed to
2. Good Christ-ian men, re - joice, \_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice; \_\_\_ now ye hear of
3. Good Christ-ian men, re - joice, \_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice; \_\_\_ now ye need not



what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day; earth and heav'n be - fore Him bow, and  
end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this! He hath o - pened heav-en's door, and  
fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to



He is in the man-ger now. Christ is born to - day! \_\_\_ Christ is born to - day!  
man is blest for - ev - er - more. Christ was born for this! \_\_\_ Christ was born for this!  
gain His ev - er - last - ing hall. Christ was born to save! \_\_\_ Christ was born to save!

*Please be seated.*

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Shepherd’s Candle** 1 Corinthians 1.27-29  
Luke 2.8-11

Betsy and Houston Hunt 8:00

The Michelson Family: Megan & Blake, Mary Margaret, Major, and Benjamin 9:30

The Sheppard Family: Lindsey & Clayton, Charlie, Lucy, and Mary Clayton 11:00

**Prayer**

Mr. Williams 8:00

Mr. Davis 9:30/11:00

**\*Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Sam Leopold

**We believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God, begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father;  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

*from the Nicene Creed*

**\*Hymn**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

*Hymn No.201 in the Trinity Hymnal*



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O Ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of His heav'n.  
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 No ear may hear His com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;



the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

### Public Confession of Sin

Mr. Leopold

**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.  
 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

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. John 1.4-5

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

### Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Leopold

*In addition to giving via passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at [pcpc.org/give](http://pcpc.org/give) or text "give" to 214-833-7724.*

### Musical Offering

8:00

"In Dulci Jubilo"  
 Mrs. Preston, organ

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

Alicia Iwema, vocalist • Nathan Davy, pianist

Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry; brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;  
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in; then, through the stillness, carols begin.  
O fallen world, to you is the song! Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.  
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy; sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; cold, barren hillside, shrouded in snow;  
Deep, empty valley veiled by the night; hear angel music, hopeful and bright.  
O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God, and pardon for wrong.  
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound, a carol of joy, a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.  
Look up sad hearted! Witness God's love; join in the carol swelling above!  
O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong!  
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn; now unto you, a Savior is born!

**\*An Advent Doxology**

TRURO



1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the  
2. So, come, my Sov' - reign, en - ter in! Let new and



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
no - bler life be - gin! Thy Ho - ly Spi - rit,



draw - ing - near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

During the 9:30 service, 1st and 2nd graders may exit at this time using the doors at the front-right of the Sanctuary to meet their teachers for Worship Explorers. **Children must be checked-in and have a nametag.** A check-in kiosk is available in the hallway outside the Sanctuary doors.

**\*The Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 7.12-17, 28-29; Luke 1.26-33****2 Samuel 7.12-17, 28-29**

When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.

<sup>13</sup> He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

<sup>14</sup> I will be to him a father, and he shall be to Me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men,

- <sup>15</sup> *but My steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you.*
- <sup>16</sup> *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”*
- <sup>17</sup> *In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.*
- <sup>28</sup> *And now, O Lord GOD, You are God, and Your words are true, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.*
- <sup>29</sup> *Now therefore may it please You to bless the house of Your servant, so that it may continue forever before You. For You, O Lord GOD, have spoken, and with Your blessing shall the house of Your servant be blessed forever.”*

Luke 1.26-33

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,*

<sup>27</sup> *to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.*

<sup>28</sup> *And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”*

<sup>29</sup> *But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.*

<sup>30</sup> *And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.*

<sup>31</sup> *And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.*

<sup>32</sup> *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,*

<sup>33</sup> *and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His Kingdom there will be no end.”*

**The Sermon**

“Indefectible”

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!

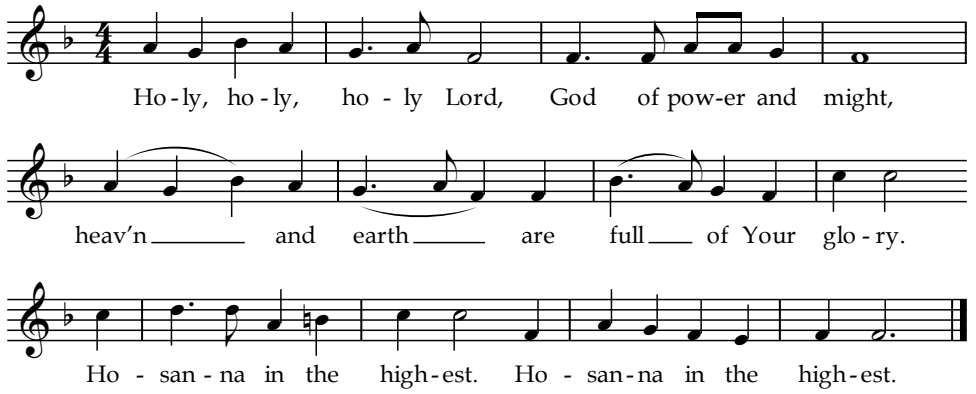
**People: We lift them up to the Lord!**

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:**



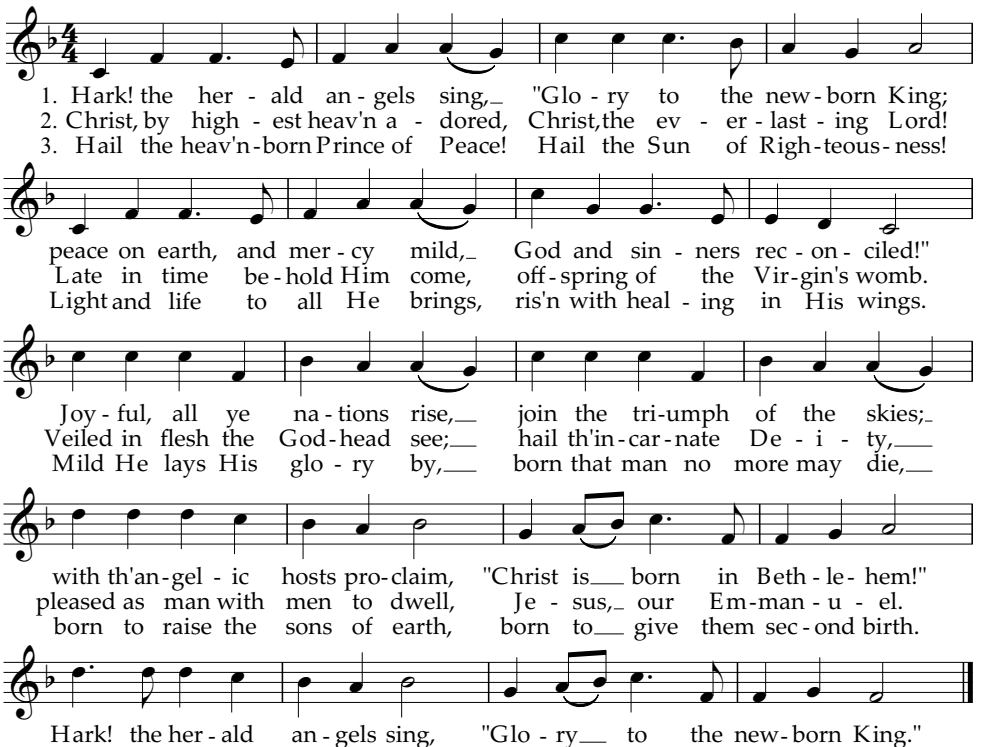
Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of Your glo-ry.  
 Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

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

**Communion 8:00**

*Please remain seated.  
 You will be served by your elders, and we will all partake  
 together when so instructed by the pastor.  
 (The bread being served is gluten free.)*

**\*Closing Carol**                      "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"                      MENDELSSOHN  
*Hymn No. 203 in the Trinity Hymnal*



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — "Glo - ry to the new-born King;  
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!  
 3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 Late in time be - hold Him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with heal - ing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; — hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty, —  
 Mild He lays His glo - ry by, — born that man no more may die, —

with th'an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, — our Em - man - u - el.  
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to — give them sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry — to the new-born King."





**SERMON NOTES**

2 Samuel 7.12-17, 28-29; Luke 1.26-33

“Indefectible”

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

*The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.*

1. What is a covenant? Why do they matter?
2. Describe the covenant made with David?
3. Why can we call His Kingdom "Indefectible"?
4. What three things does the Lord reveal that cannot come against His Kingdom?
5. How does living in the reality of His security influence the way you are living?
6. Where are you struggling to see and/or feel the reality of His Kingdom security?
7. How was and is the Lord Jesus the fulfillment of this covenant promise? Why does this matter?

# Highlights

DECEMBER 17, 2023

## What's Next?

We have friendly faces waiting to help you connect to Christ and one another at PCPC just as you exit the front of the Sanctuary. Look for the Connect banner on your way to the Grand Hall. We would also love to help you abide in and extend Christ. You can find out more at the Information Center in the Grand Hall. Download the free PCPC mobile app to explore more.

## Connection Card

Thanks for joining us today! If you are new or looking to connect at our church, please scan the QR code and fill out our Connection Card, so we can know you were here and help you connect.



## New Members Class

Is the Lord calling you to be a member of PCPC? Our New Members Class gives you the opportunity to explore that question as we discuss our church's beliefs, vision, and mission. The next class will begin on Sunday, January 14. Register today!

[pcpc.org/membership](http://pcpc.org/membership)

## Noël Candelight Concert

Today

4:30 & 7:30 P.M. | SOLD OUT

If you are hoping for tickets, periodically check [pcpcconcerts.org](http://pcpcconcerts.org) to see if tickets have been returned.

## Christmas Eve Services

December 24

4:00 P.M. (FAMILY) & 8:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

Pick up a card in the Grand Hall and invite a neighbor to join us on Christmas Eve at our 4:00 p.m. Family Service or 8:00 p.m. Evening Service. We will have regular morning worship services at 8:00 (Chapel), 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. with Nursery and Preschool (9:30/11:00), and Elementary and Youth will attend worship (no classes).

[pcpc.org/advent](http://pcpc.org/advent)

## 2024 Spring Guide

Launching January 14-19

Pick up or download a Spring Guide and register for spring classes and groups:

- All-Church Prayer
- Care & Counseling Groups
- Men, Women, & Couple's Bible Studies
- Middle & High School Small Groups
- Midweek Vespers & Dinner



[pcpc.org/guide](http://pcpc.org/guide)

## Year End Giving

Sunday, Dec. 31, is the IRS deadline for donations to be receipted for 2023. Other than offerings given in worship or online, you may mail checks postmarked by Dec. 30. The offices will be closed from Dec. 25 through Jan. 1, but donations can be hand-delivered anytime to the secure drop box at the south entrance. Thank you for your generosity in supporting all that God is doing at PCPC.

[pcpc.org/give](http://pcpc.org/give)



## Ministry Impact Report

We hope this report shows our gratitude for what the Lord has done in and through His people and the ministry of PCPC. Please scan the QR code to download a PDF version or pick up a copy in the Grand Hall to see highlights from the year.

[pcpc.org/impact-report](http://pcpc.org/impact-report)



## PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4124 Oak Lawn Avenue  
Dallas, Texas 75219

[pcpc.org](http://pcpc.org)

Social: [@parkcitiespca](https://twitter.com/parkcitiespca)

App: [pcpc.org/app](http://pcpc.org/app)

Church Office: 214-224-2500

Pastoral Concerns: 214-224-2742

or [pastorsprayer@pcpc.org](mailto:pastorsprayer@pcpc.org)

24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

or [24-7prayer@pcpc.org](mailto:24-7prayer@pcpc.org)

Sermon Archives: [pcpc.org/sermons](http://pcpc.org/sermons)

Deep Light Podcast: [pcpc.org/deeplight](http://pcpc.org/deeplight)

Every Thought Captive: [etcdevo.org](http://etcdevo.org)

## GIVE ONLINE

You may scan the QR code to give online at [pcpc.org/give/](http://pcpc.org/give/).



Download the PCPC

App with iOS or Android device where you can give online (including setting up recurring gifts).

## GENERAL FUND

2023/2024 Operating Budget	\$15,925,000
Jul 1, 2023-Dec 10, 2023 Budget	\$6,725,761
Jul 1, 2023-Dec 10, 2023 Giving	\$5,927,671
Budget Variance	(\$798,090)