

Thanks be to God,

He is a Savior who seeks the lost,

who with eyes supernaturally farsighted

discerns us a long way off,

and draws our interest to Himself

by the sweet constraint of His grace,

till we are face to face with Him

and our soul is saved.

As once, in the incarnation,

He came down from heaven to seek mankind,

so He still comes down silently from heaven

in the case of each sinner,

and pursues His search for that individual soul

following it through all the mazes of its waywardness

and the devious paths of its folly,

sometimes unto the very brink of destruction,

till at last His grace overtakes it

and says, "I must lodge at your house."

For, besides the divine omniscience here manifested,

we are made witnesses of the Lord's sovereign and almighty power.

Geerhardus Vos

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 24, 2023
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

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

The Prelude

8:00

“In dulci jubilo”
Mary Preston, organ

Marcel Dupré

9:30/11:00

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”
Brass and Percussion Ensemble • Dr. Nathan Davy, organ

arr. Dan Marvin

*Call to Worship

Minister: The LORD has made known His salvation;

People: He has revealed His righteousness in the sight of the nations.

Minister: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness to the
house of Israel.

People: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Minister: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;

People: break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

Minister: With trumpets and the sound of the horn

People: make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD! Psalm 98.2-4, 6

*Processional Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” Hymn No. 214 in the Trinity Hymnal

GLORIA



1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,



glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Please be seated.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath—The Angel’s Candle

Luke 1.26-33

Cora and Robert Billingsley 8:00

The Crouch Family: Haylie & Bert Crouch, Caitlyn, Hadden, and Connor 9:30

The Agee Family: Cindy & Jonathan, Jack, Charlotte, and Simon 11:00

Prayer

Mr. Williams 8:00

Mr. Davis 9:30/11:00

***Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Matt Fray

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

***Hymn**

“From the Squalor of a Borrowed Stable”

Townend



1. From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
2. King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
3. Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
4. Now He's standing in the place of honor,



by the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
humble Servant in the Father's hands,
He was lifted on a cruel cross,
crowned with glory on the highest throne,



to the anguish and the shame of scandal
filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
interceding for His own beloved



came the Saviour of the human race! But the
filled with mercy for the broken man. Yes, He
He was suffering to save the lost. He
till His Father calls to bring them home! Then the



skies were filled with the praise of heav'n, shepherds listen as the
walked my road and He felt my pain, joys and sorrows that I
fights for breath, He fights for me, losing sinners from the
skies will part as the trumpet sounds hope of heaven or the

an - gels tell of the Gift of God come down to man
 know so well; yet His right - eous steps give me hope a - gain:
 claims of hell; and with a shout our souls are 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!

Public Confession of Sin

Mr. Fray

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

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

***Carol**

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Hymn No. 224 in the Trinity Hymnal



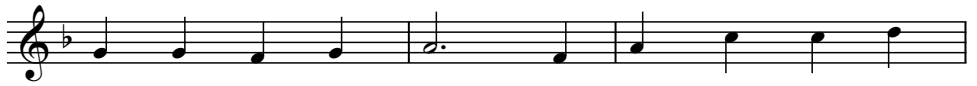
Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ry-where;



go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born.



- 1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er
- 2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when,
- 3. Down in a low-ly man-ger our



si-lent flocks by night, be-hold, through-out the
lo! a-bove the earth rang out the an-gel
hum-ble Christ was born, and God sent us sal-



heav-ens there shone a ho-ly light. _____
cho-rus that hailed our Sav-ior's birth. _____
va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn. _____

(to Refrain)

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Fray

In addition to giving via passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at pccp.org/give or text “give” to 214-833-7724.

Musical Offering

8:00

“Noël française”
Mrs. Preston, organ

Jean-François Dandrieu

9:30/11:00

“The First Noel”
Chancel Choir • Brass and Percussion Ensemble
Stephen Nielson, piano • Nathan Davy, organ • J. Marty Cope, conducting

arr. Forrest

The First Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord, that hath made Heaven and earth of naught and with His blood mankind hath bought.



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.

There is no Elementary programming at 9:30 or 11:00 this morning.

***The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 7.14 and Matthew 1.18-25**

Isaiah 7.14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1.18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹ *And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.*

²⁰ *But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

²¹ *She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."*

²² *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:*

²³ *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

²⁴ *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,*

²⁵ *but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And he called His name Jesus.*

The Sermon

"The Sign"

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 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"**

ANTIOCH

Hymn No. 195 in the Trinity Hymnal

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re-ceive her King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare Him room, and songs em-ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains re-fest the ground; He comes to make His bless-ings flow far na-tions prove the glo-ries of His righ-teous-ness and

heav'n and na - ture_ sing, and_ heav'n and na - ture_
 peat the sound - ing_ joy, re - peat the sound - ing_
 as the curse is_ found, far_ as the curse is_
 won - ders of His_ love, and_ won - ders of His_
 sing, and_ heav'n, and heav'n_ and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat_ the sound - ing joy.
 found, far_ as, far as_ the curse is found.
 love, and_ won - ders, won - ders of His love.

***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.**

The Postlude

- | | | |
|------------|--|---------------------------|
| 8:00 | “Noël provençal”
Mrs. Preston, <i>organ</i> | <i>Alexandre Guilmant</i> |
| 9:30/11:00 | “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”
Dr. Davy, <i>organ</i> | <i>David Willcocks</i> |

**Please stand if you are able.*

We thank the following musicians for their leadership in worship this morning:

- Cody McClarty, *trumpet*
 Oscar Garcia, *trumpet*
 Jared Sanders, *French horn*
 Christian Paarup, *trombone*
 Jarrod Robertson, *tuba*
 Joe Ferraro, *percussion*

*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.*



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

SERMON NOTES

Isaiah 7.14; Matthew 1.18-25

“The Sign”

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 significant about the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14?
2. Why is it important for each detail of the prophecy to be fulfilled?
3. How can being too familiar with the story impact our awe and wonder?
4. What attributes of God are revealed in this narrative?
5. How does seeing the Old Testament promises fulfilled in Christ give you needed assurance as we await His second coming?
6. What is something from the history of His birth that would be good for you to continue to meditate on for a while?

Highlights

DECEMBER 24, 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.

pcpc.org/connect

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



Christmas Eve Services

Today

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

Invite family and friends to join us for our Family Service at 4:00 p.m. with a special children's message and music or our Evening Service at 8:00 p.m.

New Year's Eve Services

December 31

We will hold regular morning worship services on Dec. 31 at 8:00 (Chapel), 9:30, & 11:00 a.m. We will have Nursery and Preschool at the 9:30 a.m. service only. We encourage Elementary and Youth to attend worship with their parents (no classes).

2024 Spring Guide

Launching January 14-19

Pick up or download a Spring Guide and register for classes as we abide in Christ and connect with one another:

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



pcpc.org/guide

WinterGrace

February 3-4

Registration opens January 2 for our on-campus retreat to be refreshed in God's grace through fellowship, learning, music, and worship. This year's theme is "God's Grace in Suffering." Singer-songwriter & author Andrew Peterson and pastor & author Kevin DeYoung will be our special guests.

pcpc.org/wintergrace

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



PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4124 Oak Lawn Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75219

pcpc.org

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

App: pcpc.org/app

Church Office: 214-224-2500

Pastoral Concerns: 214-224-2742

or pastorsprayer@pcpc.org

24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

or [24-7prayer@pcpc.org](tel:214-224-2680)

Sermon Archives: pcpc.org/sermons

Deep Light Podcast: pcpc.org/deeplight

Every Thought Captive: etcdevo.org

GIVE ONLINE

You may scan the QR code to give online at 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)