



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 31, 2023
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Robby Higginbottom

The Prelude

8:00

“See, amid the Winter’s Snow” *SEE AMID THE WINTER’S SNOW*
Stephen Nielson, *piano*

9:30/11:00

“Il est né, le divin enfant”
Dr. Nathan Davy, *organ*

Denis Bedard

*Call to Worship

Minister: There is none like You among the gods, O LORD,

People: Nor are there any works like Yours.

Minister: All the nations You have made shall come and worship before You,
O Lord, and shall glorify Your name.

People: For You are great and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Minister: Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may walk in Your truth;
unite my heart to fear Your name.

**People: Show me a sign of Your favor, that those who hate me may see
and be put to shame because You, LORD, have helped me and
comforted me.**

selections from Psalm 86

*Carol of Praise

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

Melody 1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
Harmony 2. Shep - herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
Melody 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
Harmony 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in
Melody 5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
 Spir - it, Son; ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
 ye have seen His na - tal star: Come and wor - ship,
 in His tem - ple shall ap - pear:
 to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Tommy Overton

Minister. What is your only comfort in life and in death?

People: That I belong—
 body and soul,
 in life and in death—
 not to myself,
 but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ,
 who at the cost of His own blood
 has fully paid for all my sins
 and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil;
 that He protects me so well
 that without the will of my Father in heaven
 not a hair can fall from my head;
 indeed, that everything must fit His purpose for my salvation.
 Therefore, by His Holy Spirit,
 He also assures me of eternal life,
 and makes me wholeheartedly willing
 and ready from now on to live for Him.

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 1

*Carol

"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor"

QUELLE ESTE

Hymn No. 230 in the Trinity Hymnal



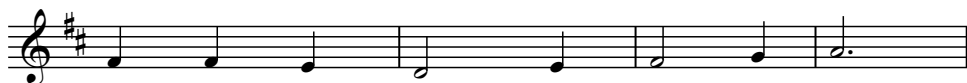
1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
heav'n - ward by Thine e - ter - nal plan.
make us what Thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.

Public Confession of Sin

Mr. Overton

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to Your steadfast love;
according to Your abundant mercy
blot out my transgressions.
Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin!
For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned
and done what is evil in Your sight.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
and uphold me with a willing spirit.

from Psalm 51

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. Lamentations 3,21-23

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

*Carol

“What Child Is This”

GREENSLEEVES

Hymn No. 213 in the Trinity Hymnal



1. What Child is this, Who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap — is
2. Why lies He in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass — are
3. So bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while
feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the
own Him; the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let



shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear, shall
lov - ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise, raise the



Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:



haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mar - y.
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the Son of Mar - y.
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the Son of Mar - y.

Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Overton

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

Musical Offering

8:00 "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" WALTHAM/MARKS
Mr. Nielson, *piano* arr. Nielson

9:30/11:00 "How Suddenly a Baby Cries" Traditional Irish/Getty
Jennifer Barnes, *vocalist*

*A Christmas Doxology

GLORIA

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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

*The Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40.1-2; Luke 2.22-35

Isaiah 40.1-2

Comfort, comfort My people, says your God.

² *Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.*

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."*

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!

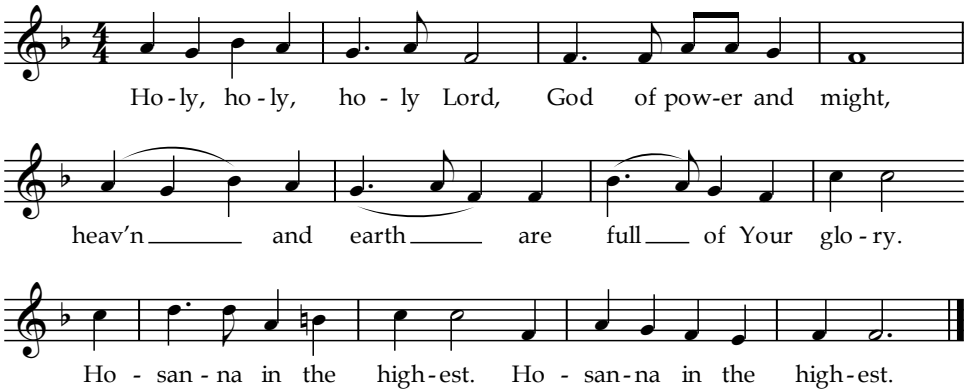
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

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**

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

HYFRYDOL

Hymn No. 196 in the Trinity Hymnal

1. Come, Thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set Thy
 2. Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day-spring from on
 3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, He whose glo - ries
 4. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a Child and



peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us
 high, ap - pear; come, Thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of Thy
 knew no end; by His life He brings us glad - ness, our Re -
 yet — a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er, now Thy



find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
 birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing
 deem - er, Shepherd, Friend; Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber,
 gra - cious King - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it



hope of all the earth Thou art, dear De - sire of
 news, glad ti - dings of a birth: "Go to Him, your
 born with - in a cat - tle stall; this the e - ver -
 rule in all our hearts a - lone; by Thine all suf -



ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 fi - cient mer - it, raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

***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

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

SUSSEX CAROL

Mr. Nielson, *piano**arr. Nielson*

**Please stand if you are able.*

*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 40.1-2; Luke 2.22-35

“Comfort My People”

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. Where do we tend to look for comfort?
2. Why is it significant that the Lord Himself says, "Comfort, comfort My people" (Isaiah 40.1)?
3. Why do we need the Lord's comfort (Isaiah 40.2)?
4. For what has Simeon been waiting (Luke 2.25-26)? For what are we waiting?
5. What does Simeon understand about Jesus' identity and destiny (Luke 2.29-35)?
6. Read Psalm 27.4, Luke 10.41-42, and Philippians 3.7-14. How do these "one thing" statements remind us of Simeon?
7. With the Lord's help, how can we pursue the comfort that He alone can provide?

Highlights

DECEMBER 31, 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



Year End Giving

Today is the IRS deadline for donations to be receipted for 2023. Thank you for your generosity in supporting all that God is doing at PCPC.

pcpc.org/give

Communicants Class Parent Intro Meeting

January 7

11:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M. | ADULT CLASSROOM 4

Is your child interested in making a public profession of faith, being admitted to the Lord's Table, and becoming a full communing member of PCPC? One parent must attend a required Parent Intro Meeting in order for a child to participate in the Communicants program this spring.

pcpc.org/events

2024 Spring Guide

Launching January 14-19

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

- All-Church Prayer
- Care & Counseling Groups
- Children & Adult Choirs
- First Friday & bEfriend
- Men, Women, & Couple's Bible Studies
- Middle & High School Small Groups
- Midweek Vespers & Dinner
- New Members Class
- Parenting Ahead Class
- UNION Pre-Marriage Class



pcpc.org/guide

Don't Get Scammed

January 12

10:00-11:30 A.M. | OAK LAWN WEST

This class will teach senior adults how to spot scams and cons received via email, phone, texts, and even via snail mail! The class will be taught by Melody Parlett, Managing Director of Enable Support. Please let us know you will be attending no later than January 9. Contact Jane Beasley at 214-224-2771 or jane.beasley@pcpc.org.

WinterGrace

February 3-4

Registration for childcare, luncheon, and concert tickets 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



PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

or 24-7prayer@pcpc.org

Sermon Archives: pcpc.org/sermons

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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 17, 2023 Budget	\$7,524,333
Jul 1, 2023-Dec 17, 2023 Giving	\$7,058,903
Budget Variance	(\$465,431)