This little babe, so few days old, Is come to rifle Satan's fold; All hell doth at his presence quake. Though he himself for cold do shake, For in this weak unarmèd wise The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field; His naked breast stands for a shield; His battering shot are babish cries, His arrows looks of weeping eyes, His martial ensigns cold and need, And feeble flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitchèd in a stall, His bulwark but a broken wall, The crib his trench, hay stalks his stakes, Of shepherds he his muster makes; And thus, as sure his foe to wound, The angels' trumps alarum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight; Stick to the tents that he hath pight; Within his crib is surest ward, This little babe will be thy guard. If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy, Then flit not from this heavenly boy.

— Robert Southwell (1561–1595)



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Park Cities Presbyterian Church 2024

Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m.

Prelude

Variations on "In Dulci Jubilo" Denis Bédard Nathan Davy, organist

"What Child Is This?" GREENSLEEVES
Winston Miller, vocalist

"On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" SUSSEX CAROL Stephen Nielson, pianist arr. S. Nielson

> "Jesu Bambino" Andrea Miller, *vocalist*

arr. Sterling Procter

Pietro Yon

"In Dulci Jubilo" Brass and Percussion Ensemble

*Call to Worship

The Rev. Mark Davis

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; **People:** those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has

light shined.

Minister: Let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come

to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

People: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the

government shall be upon His shoulder:

Minister: And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty

God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

People: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will

toward men.



*Prayer of Adoration concluding with

O God, take me in spirit to the watchful shepherds, and enlarge my mind; let me hear good tidings of great joy, and hearing, believe, rejoice, praise, adore, my conscience bathed in an ocean of repose, my eyes uplifted to a reconciled Father; place me with ox, camel and goat,

to look with them upon my Redeemer's face, and in Him account myself delivered from sin; let me with Simeon clasp the newborn Child to my heart, embrace Him with undying faith, exulting that He is mine and I am His. In Him, You have given me so much that heaven can give no more. Amen!

Musical Reflection

"Christmas Night" Chancel Choir 16th c. melody, arr. John Rutter

Softly through the winter's darkness shines a light, clear and still in Bethlehem on Christmas night, 'round the stable where a virgin mother mild watches over Jesus Christ the holy Child.

Shepherds kneel in adoration by His bed; seraphim in glory hover 'round His head. Wise men guided by the leading of a star, bring Him gifts of precious treasure from afar.

Choirs of angels sing to greet His wondrous birth: Christ our Lord in human form comes down to earth. 'Glory to God in highest heav'n' their joyful strain: 'Peace on earth, goodwill to men' the glad refrain.

Lullaby! The Child lies sleeping: sing lullaby! Safe in Mary's tender keeping: sing lullaby! Guardian angels keep their watch till break of day: Lullaby! Sweet Jesus sleeps among the hay.

Alleluia! Let the earth rejoice today! Christ is born to take our sins and guilt away. Praise the Lord who sent Him down from heav'n above: Holy Infant, born of God the Father's love

Public Confession of Sin

The Rev. Dr. Pete Deison

O Source of all good, we render to You, gift of gifts, only an impoverished soul. Before Your wisdom, we are undone. with no will to return to You, and no intellect to devise recovery. You came, God-incarnate, to save us to the uttermost. as man to die our death, to shed satisfying blood on our behalf, to work out a perfect righteousness for us. Meanwhile, we live in selfishness, hard-heartedness, with a stiff-necked and unforgiving spirit. We beg You, through Your incarnate life and willing sacrifice, to pardon and blot out our sins. Have mercy upon us, O Lord.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings 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." Luke 2.10-11

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



Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Dr. Deison

A portion of tonight's offering will be given to the Presbyterian Church in America Ministerial Relief Fund.

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 "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" Traditional English Carol Chancel Choir • Brass and Percussion Ensemble Nathan Davy, organ • J. Marty Cope, conductor

- God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day; to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
- O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy. From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came; and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same; how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
- "Fear not then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright, this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those that trust in Him from Satan's might."
- Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface.

*The Scripture Reading: Luke 2.8-20

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear.
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ 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!"
- ¹⁵ 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.

Christmas Eve Meditation "The Light of His Glory"

Mr. Davis

Mr. Nielson, pianist • Dr. Davy, organist • Brass and Percussion Ensemble



Christmas Prayer



*The Benediction Mr. Davis

Minister: Glory be to Thee, O Father Almighty, who hast given us Thine only-begotten Son, that we might live through Him. Glory be to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, who became man that we might become sons of God. Glory be to Thee, O Holy Spirit, who directs and rules our hearts

People: (with a loud voice) **Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!** AMEN!

Postlude "I Saw Three Ships" Richard Elliott
Dr. Davy, organ

^{*}Please stand if you are able.

We thank the following musicians for their leadership in our Christmas Eve service:

Kyle Sherman, trumpet
Cody McClarty, trumpet
Gerry Wood, French horn
Jon Hinton, trombone
Clay Garrett, tuba
Mike McNicholas, percussion



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

Music printed by permission: CCLI #364068

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.