

Christmas Eve

COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2013 | 8pm

Prelude

“Music for Christmas”

Phil Sargeant, oboe; Angelina Savoia, harp

Call to Worship

Prayer of Adoration

***Hymn No. 155**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Irby

Lighting of the Advent Candles:

Responsive Reading:

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to save. He said, “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me, to preach good news and bind up the broken hearted.”

People: *He has come to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to bring peace. It is said of Him, “The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and power. With righteousness He will judge, and He will establish justice on all the earth.”

People: *The wolf will lie down with the lamb. The leopard will lie down with the goat. They will neither harm nor destroy, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came to establish a new kingdom. It was promised that “The people who walked in great darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the shadow of death a light has dawned.”

People: *For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be upon His shoulders and He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government there will be no end. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Pastor: We recall that the Lord Jesus Christ came as God to be with us forever, and “every valley shall be raised up and every mountain and hill made low, the rough places shall become level, the rugged places made smooth, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.”

People: *The Sovereign Lord comes with power. He tends His flock like a shepherd; He gathers His lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart. Come, Lord Jesus.*

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn

“Lift Up Your Heads”

Winchester New

Lift up your heads ye mighty gates;
Behold the King of Glory waits;
The King of Kings is drawing near,
The Saviour of the world is here.

Redeemer, come! I open wide
My heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me Thine inner presence feel,
Thy grace and love in me reveal.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, who are rich in mercy to all those who call upon You, hear us now as we come humbly into Your presence confessing our sins and imploring Your mercy and forgiveness. We have broken Your Holy Law by word and deed. We have ignored Your presence in the Spirit and have failed to look for the return of our Savior and our Judge. Have mercy upon us, and in Your great goodness put away our offenses and cleanse us from our sins, and grant to us newness of life in which to serve You through the merit and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Hymn No. 141

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 33:17-23

page 44, pew Bible

Prayer of Intercession

*Hymn No. 133

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn

The Offering

Call for the Offering

Reception of the Offering

Offertory Solo

“O Holy Night”

Adolphe Adam

Valerie Kraft, soprano; Angelina Savoia, harp; Fred Markey, organ

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

O night divine, O night, O night Divine.
Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother; and in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever, His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

~John Sullivan Dwight

New Testament Lesson	John 1:1-18	page 886, pew Bible
Sermon	“The Inextinguishable Light”	Dr. Robert Norris
*Hymn No. 145	“O Come, All Ye Faithful”	Adeste Fidelis

The Sacrament Of The Lord’s Supper

Confession of Faith

Let us together confess the faith of the church at all times and in all places:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the 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 our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***Hymn No. 623** “Gloria Patri”

The Invitation

The Institution

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord’s Prayer

The Distribution

The Thanksgiving

The Passing of the Peace

***Hymn No.125** “Joy to the World!” Antioch

***Benediction**

Postlude “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” Paul Manz

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Fourth Presbyterian Church is a member congregation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).