

Christmas Eve

COMMUNION SERVICE

December 24, 2014 | 8pm

Prelude

“Music for Christmas”
Phil Sargeant, oboe; Angelina Savoia, harp

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Glory to God in highest heaven. And on earth peace for those on whom His glory rests.

People: *In the tender compassion of our God, the light has come to us who lived in darkness.*

Pastor: The Word has become flesh, has come to dwell among us, and we have seen His glory.

People: *Glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Pastor: To us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. Alleluia.

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

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.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The Call to Confession

Brothers and sisters in Christ, draw near to God and He will draw near to you; humble yourself before Him and He will lift you up. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit. The Lord will not despise a broken and contrite heart.

Dr. Robert M. Norris, *Senior Pastor*, Dr. Todd Smedley, *Senior Associate Pastor*,
Rev. Corey Gray, Rev. Ron Meyer, and Rev. David O'Connell, *Pastors*

The 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.

Declaration 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

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Hymn No. 133 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn

THE OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Reception of the Offering

Offertory

"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 Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til He appear'd 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.

~ Placide Cappeau

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:1-17 page 807, pew Bible

Sermon "The Record of God's Grace" Dr. Robert Norris

Hymn No. 145 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Adeste Fidelis

The Creed

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, God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men 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 Ghost, 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.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Brothers and sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord rose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples in the place where they were gathered and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Come, then, to the joyful feast of the Lord.

Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

The Invitation

The Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Passing of the Peace

Hymn No. 125

“Joy to the World!”

Antioch

Benediction

Postlude

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Paul Manz

Fourth
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5500 River Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20816-3399
Phone: 301-320-3434 | Fax: 301-320-6315 | www.4thpres.org

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