

Christmas Communion

Sunday, December 20, 2015 | 6pm

Welcome

Prelude

“Good King Wenceslas”
“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”
“Gesù Bambino”
“Gloria Fantasie”
Fourth Flutes

arr. Catherine McMichael
arr. Robert Maddox
arr. Mary Jean Simpson
arr. Judy Nishimura

Congregational Introit

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Truro

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates;
Behold, the King of glory waits;
The King of kings is drawing near;
The Savior of the world is here!

~Psalm 24:7

Call to Worship

Pastor: The Lord Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple; the messenger of the covenant, in Whom you delight; behold, He is coming.

People: *Our King is coming, triumphant and victorious. He shall speak peace to those far off and those who are near.*

Pastor: The day shall dawn upon us from on high, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

People: *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; Alleluia.*

Pastor: O come let us adore Him.

People: *O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Hymn No. 132

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Gloria

The Call to Confession

Pastor: 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 does not despise a broken and contrite heart.

The Confession

People: Almighty God our heavenly Father, You who makes Your home with those of a humble and contrite spirit; before You and our Lord Jesus Christ we confess our sin. Forgive us for ignoring Your presence in the Spirit and our failure to look for the return of our Savior. We confess our worldly cares have blinded us to Your coming. Most loving Father, have mercy on us, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive the guilt of our sin and deliver us from its power by Your Holy Spirit that we might hereafter more worthily magnify Your holy name.

Declaration of Pardon

Pastor: Surely He has born our griefs and carried our sorrows. He was wounded for our transgression, He was bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that gave us peace and by His stripes we are healed.

Hymn No. 141

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

St. Louis

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 103

page 502, pew Bible

Prayer of Intercession

Hymn No. 128

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

Carol

Call for the Offering

Offertory

“What Child is This?”

Greensleeves

Adam Kunsberg, soloist

What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

The Proclamation of the Word

New Testament Reading

Luke 1:46-56

page 856, pew Bible

Sermon

“A Song of God’s Might and Mercy”

Rev. Rob Yancey

Hymn No. 125

“Joy to the World!”

Antioch

The Nicene Creed

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 His 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 us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge both 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 proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one 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

The Thanksgiving

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right for us to give thanks. It is our joy and our salvation at all times and in all places to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, everlasting God, through Christ, our Lord.*

Pastor: You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. You sent Him into this world to satisfy the longings of Your people for a Savior, to bring freedom to the captives of sin, and to establish justice for the oppressed. He came among us as one of us, taking the lot of the poor, sharing in human suffering. We rejoice that in His death and rising again, You set before us the sure promise of new life, the certain hope of a heavenly home where we will sit at table with Christ our host, Amen.

The Institution

Prayer of Consecration and Lord’s Prayer

The Invitation

Pastor: “Beloved in the Lord, draw near to the holy table, and hear the gracious words of the Lord Jesus Christ; ‘Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am meek and lowly in heart; and you will find rest for your souls. I am the bread of life: he that comes to me shall never hunger and he that believes in me shall never thirst; he that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.’”

The Communion

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Passing of the Peace

Communion Response

“Hail the Heav’n-born Prince of Peace”

Mendelssohn

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die;
Born to raise the sons of earth;
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King!”

Benediction

Postlude

“Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

Paul Manz

Next Sunday, December 27

Morning Service

8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

“A Reminder of Who and Whose”

Jude 1:1-25

Rev. Rob Yancey

Evening Service

6pm in the Sanctuary

“On the Night of Jesus’ Betrayal”

Luke 22:1-23

Rev. Mr. Thomas Myrick

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