

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing God's praise with creation!

Praise God, sun and moon! Praise God, shining stars!

Come, let us rejoice with Simeon and Anna!

God's gift for all people!

Come let us sing God's praise together

and worship the Christ-child born for us!

Hymn 143

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

- 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!
- 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!
- 3 Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!
- 4 All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of grace and truth,

in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness.

***We confess that we have not welcomed the light,
or trusted good news to be good.***

***We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.***

***Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Psalter: Psalm 148 (as set in *Glory to God* 679)

- 1 Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King."
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, uplift your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice!
- 2 Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold;
join with children's songs of praise; worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!"

A Time with Children

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-38

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 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night

and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Sermon: "Something Better Than Disappointment"

Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn 144

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan;
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.
- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

Affirmation of Faith

A Declaration of Faith (PCUS) 4.1

***Jesus, the long-expected Savior, came into the world as a child,
descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of Mary, a virgin.
He lived as a Jew among Jews.
He announced to his people
the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.
We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child,
yet born of God's power as was no other child.
In the person and work of Jesus,
God himself and a human life are united but not confused,
distinguished but not separated.
The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule.
Through his birth, life, death, and resurrection,
he brings about the relationship between God and humanity
that God always intended.***

Offering
Offertory

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GO IN GOD'S NAME

Hymn 545

"Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace"

- 1 Lord, bid your servant go in peace; your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.

- 2 This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.

Charge and Benediction
Postlude

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PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Liturgist	Judy Cutler
Coordinator for Children and Youth Ministries	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Guest Pianist	Nathaniel Worrell

Church Family Announcements

At the special Session meeting on December 13, our elders voted unanimously to **return to online-only worship**. Sadly, the covid-19 virus is raging through our region and we are not willing to put our members and friends at risk. We are disappointed that the public health situation has forced us to make this decision. However, we are also happy to have the equipment and experience to lead worship services on our YouTube channel. We are ready to celebrate Christmas with you!

The **church office** will close for the year 2020 on Thursday, December 31 at 12:00 noon. All visitors are required to wear masks. To ensure our availability, **it may be a good idea to call ahead** and set an appointment if you plan to stop by. Sometimes the outer door may be locked - especially if there is a blizzard.

Our plan is to continue online-only worship **through the month of January**. We will notify you when the situation changes.

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

First Presbyterian Church of Clarks Summit offers electronic Giving as a way to support the church on a regular or one-time basis. You can go to **fpccs.org** or **scan the QR code** (at right) anytime to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. Why not give it a try today?



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