

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 26, 2021

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

#### CAROL-SING

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, Hymn 132*

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

*Away in a Manger*

CRADLE SONG

*Hymn 114 - Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Hymn 115 - Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay*

MUELLER

**Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And fit us to heaven to live with thee there.**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, Hymn 123*

CAROL

**It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**

### PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

**\*HYMN 119**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** *read in unison*

**Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself. But often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

*Time for silent prayer.*

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**\*RESPONSE**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**\*THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*What Is This Lovely Fragrance?*

Healey Willan

What is this lovely fragrance wafting  
Like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!  
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty,  
Hear you not heavn'ly carolling?  
What is this light so fair, so tender  
Breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Never the Morning Star so radiant  
Followed his course o'er eastern skies.  
Shepherds, O hast with eager footsteps  
Seek the Saviour, born today.  
Low at His feet we lay our treasure,  
Heart's adoration, love for aye. - *French carol*

THE WORD

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

I Samuel 2:18-20

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

Luke 2:41-52

**SERMON**

*Where You Lead I Will Follow*

Rev. Jordan Akin

THE RESPONSE

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Phil. 2:5-11*

**Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

**GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

*Please see the information on the inside of the front cover of the bulletin about ways to give. You are invited to pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pen.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

*How Great Our Joy!*

trad. German carol, arr. John Rutter

While by the sheep we watched at night,  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

*Refrain:*

How great our joy!

Joy, joy, joy!

Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. *Refrain.*

There shall the Child lie in a stall,

This Child who shall redeem us all. *Refrain.*

This gift of God we'll cherish well,

That ever joy our hearts shall fill. *Refrain.*

**\*DOXOLOGY 112**

*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*

SUSSEX CAROL

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night. *repeat***

**“Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!”**

**SHARING GRACE**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The Lord's Prayer*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**\*HYMN 136**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

GO TELL IT

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on MENDELSSOHN*

David Willcocks

*We are called to go out from our worship to share the grace of God with one another and the world.*

*You are welcome to remain seated for the postlude or exit quietly.*

*For our worshipers who use hearing devices, please be reminded that we have the T-Coil system available. If you have the T-coil feature on your hearing device, and most devices do have that feature, you simply need to switch it to that setting. If you would like a unit, please ask an usher to provide one.*

# IN WORSHIP TODAY

## THE MEANS OF GRACE

*Our life is in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. The Bible is the written witness to Jesus Christ, therefore it is “The Word of Life.” Our lives are claimed by God through our baptism. It is God’s seal on who we are as the children of God, therefore it is “The Font of Identity.” The Table is the center of our home in the Body of Christ, the place where we are welcomed, renewed, and strengthened for the life to which we are called, therefore it is “The Table of Sustenance.”*

## USHERS

Scott Carothers, Diana Jester, Bonnie & John Stone

## OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Jordan Akin, preacher; Rev. Steve Jester, liturgist

The Octet; Jim Rittenhouse, Director; Samuel Libra, Organist

Evan Vivic, Audio/Video Engineer; Brandon Hughes, Camera

*All music is printed & live-cast by permission under OneLicense.net #718492, and CCLI License No. #2036813.*

## WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER

Rebecca Brown and her family on the death of her father, Darrell, 12/21/21.

Brad Williamson and his family on the death of his father, Bill, 12/16/21.

Susan Schmidt and her family on the death of her husband, Steve, 12/14/21.

Kelly Seiler and her family on the death of her brother-in-law, Nick Strong, 12/10/21.

Priss Hovious and her family on the death of her father, Nelson D. Rodes Jr., 12/01/21.

The family and friends of Bill Brittain on his death, 11/21/21.

Jean Herp and her family on the death of her aunt, Elizabeth (Betsy) Gray, 11/19/21.

Charlie Castner and his family on the death of his brother, Henry Castner, 11/19/21.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JAN. 9:** The congregation is called to meet following 11:00 worship on Sunday, January 9, for the purpose of hearing and acting upon recommendations from the Church Nominating Committee regarding the formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. Information on the seven nominees will be available soon.

**COVID PROTOCOL:** The church’s Re-opening Task Group, consistent with CDC and Presbytery advice, emphasizes that regardless of vaccination status, wearing masks while gathering inside the building is strongly encouraged. All individuals are strongly encouraged to mask for their own protection and as an additional layer of protection for those around them. Masks are required in the Weekday School spaces.

On November 18, Session approved the Task Group’s recommendation that January 2, 2002 be set as a target date to adjust our masking protocol. The intention is to then strongly encourage masking for the unvaccinated and at-risk members of the congregation when in worship. The Task Group, composed of active elders, at-large members, and members of the church staff, will continue to monitor the situation and meet regularly to recommend any necessary changes.

**STEWARDSHIP:** We are blessed to have many generous donors in our congregation, which has been so important during this challenging year. As a reminder, if you have not fulfilled your 2021 pledge, we would ask that you do so by the end of the year, if possible. We would also ask that your 2022 pledge be turned in by that time, if you have not already made it. Should you have questions about your gift or your pledge, please contact Jackie Grimley, our Bookkeeper, in the office. Thank you to all for supporting our church and it’s important mission! —*The Stewardship Committee*

**MISSION OF THE MONTH:** The Missionary Christmas Fund is our December Mission of the Month. Please consider contributing a special gift to our missionaries who are faithfully serving our neighbors throughout the world. Donations can be made to Second Presbyterian Church. Designate Missionary Christmas fund on the donation.

**RELIEF FOR WESTERN KENTUCKY:** Second is collecting donations to help our brothers and sisters in Western Kentucky after the devastating tornadoes earlier this month. If you would like to contribute, you can donate by check by writing “Disaster Relief” in the memo section, or online at our Giving page by clicking the button below.

## UPCOMING EVENTS: Week of December 26, 2021

**One Service January 2, 2022** - We will celebrate The First Sunday of Christmas at 11:00 a.m. only, and it will be live-streamed.

**The Office will be closed** Monday, December 27 and Tuesday, December 28 for the Christmas holiday, and Monday, January 3 for the New Year’s holiday.

## THE MINISTRY TEAM

Rev. Steven P. Jester, Pastor

Rev. Jordan Akin, Associate Pastor for Youth

Jim Rittenhouse, Director of Worship &  
Music Ministries

Lorie Williamson, Director of Children's  
Ministries

Hayley Abell, Director of Weekday School

Lisa Bickett, Pastoral Assistant

Keith DeCosta, Sexton

Rick Farrow, Facilities

Samuel Libra, Organist & Communications  
Assistant

Tanner Williams, Receptionist/Admin. Assistant

Chelsea Beasley, Interim Formations Assistant

Jackie Grimley, Bookkeeper

Christina Recktenwald, Children's Choirs  
Co-Coordinator

Ricky Case, Children's Choirs Co-Coordinator

Amy Heckmann, Childcare Coordinator

Elizabeth Clay, Parish Associate

Paula S. Roberts, Organist Emerita



3701 Old Brownsboro Road  
Louisville, KY 40207

# 119 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.  
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the vir-gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate de - i - ty,  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king!"

Brought together in the mid-19th century, the text and tune of this familiar carol began in quite different forms. The text had ten stanzas and began, "Hark, how all the welkin rings." The tune was created for a festival celebrating Gutenberg's introduction of moveable type.

# 136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

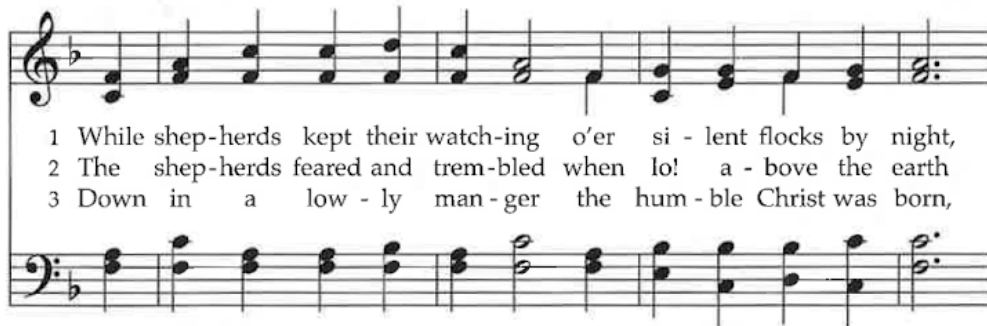


Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

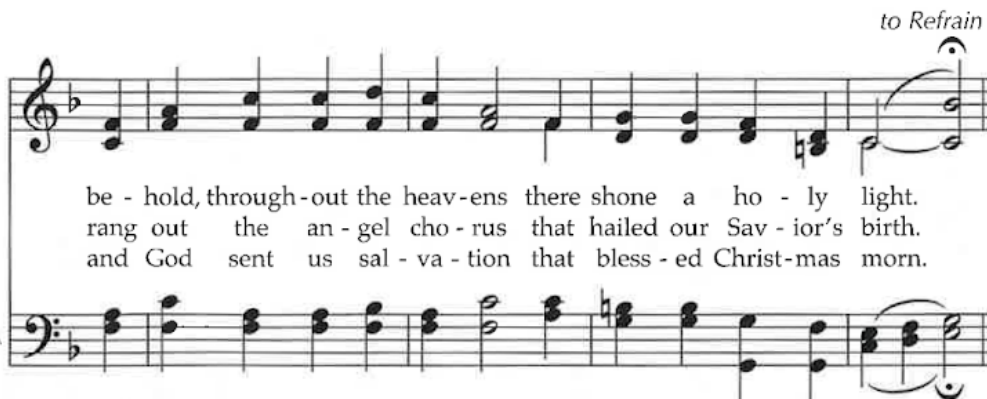


go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

*Fine*



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth  
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

*to Refrain*

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.