

DECEMBER 31, 2023 | 11:00 A.M.



The Sunday after Christmas

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

CAROL SING

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

Hymn 112

SUSSEX CAROL

**On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
On Christmas night all Christians sing
To hear the news the angels bring
News of great joy, news of great mirth
News of our merciful King's birth**

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Hymn 136

GO, TELL IT

**refrain Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *refrain***

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Hymn 143

REGENT SQUARE

**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!**

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavené queen.
Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
“Deo gracias!”

15th c. English

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

*HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read in unison*

God of our every day, we know you are with us through thick and thin, in times of great joy and at moments of disappointment. Yet we can feel let down when the joy of Christmas Day has passed. Our hope gets tossed away with the gift wrap, and our energy for the future feels extinguished. Forgive us when our faithfulness wanes like a candle burning down. Give us strength for the moment, grace for our doubts, and hope for the future ahead.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS *read responsively*

...through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

*RESPONSE

Angels We Have Heard on High, refrain

GLORIA

Gloria...in excelsis Deo! Gloria...in excelsis Deo!

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10 - 62:3

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Nunc Dimittis

Randall Thompson

Jim Rittenhouse, soloist

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared before
the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of thy people Israel. - *Luke 2:29-32*

SECOND READING

Luke 2:22-40

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

A Season for Praise

Rev. Steve Jester

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read in unison*

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the
Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the
third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from
thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and
the life everlasting. Amen.**

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We welcome you to scan this QR code and visit the Giving page on our website. You can fulfill your pledges and offer your financial support for the ongoing ministries of Second Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



ANTHEM

Unto Us Is Born a Son

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

The Octet; Paula Roberts, organ

arr. David Willcocks

Unto us is born a son,
King of choirs supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.
Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their Owner know
Becradled in the manger.
This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild
This the Christmas story:
And O that Mary's gentle Child
Might lead us up to glory!
O and A and A and O,
Cum Cantemus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.
from Piae Cantiones, 16th c.;
trans. G.R. Woodward

*DOXOLOGY

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ,
the newborn King!**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

SHARING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *read in unison*

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 109

Blest Be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Paula Roberts, Organist Emerita

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.

In Worship Today

PRESENTING 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

Diana Jester, Carter Ann Kannapell, Crystal Kannapell, Odetta Tucker, Walter Tucker

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Steve Jester, preacher; Lorie Williamson & Rev. Jordan Akin, liturgists

The Octet of the Sanctuary Choir; Jim Rittenhouse, Director;

Paula Roberts, Organist Emerita

Evan Vivic, Audiovisual Engineer; Elliott Nichols, Technology Coordinator

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We Lift Up in Prayer

Stuart and Jennifer Ferguson and their family upon the death of their sister-in-law, Barbara Ferguson, 12/24/23.

Martha Spencer and her family on the death of her sister, Fuchsia Nelson, 12/18/23.

LaMar Gaston, Joan Gaston, Page Penna, and their family on the death of LaMar's son, Mark, 11/24/23.

Sue Rogers and her family on the death of her father, O.D., 11/8/23.

113 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - -

This French carol probably dates from the 1700s, though it was not printed until the following century. Because it uses a vernacular language for the narrative stanzas and Latin for the refrain, it belongs to a special category called "macaronic" or mixed-language texts.

109 Blest Be the God of Israel

Song of Zechariah



1 Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free;
 2 God from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has given;
 3 On those who sit in dark - ness the sun be - gins to rise,



who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav - ior comes a - mong us to raise us up to heaven.
 the dawn - ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin - ner's eyes.



The proph - ets spoke of mer - cy, of free - dom and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes the her - ald, fore - run - ner in the way,
 God guides the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.



God shall ful - fill that prom - ise and bring the peo - ple peace.
 the proph - et of sal - va - tion, the har - bin - ger of day.
 O bless our God and Sav - ior with songs that nev - er cease!

This 20th-century British paraphrase of the Song of Zechariah (Luke 1:68-79) broadens the implications of what John the Baptist's father says in order to affirm that God's work is ongoing. The tune is named for the composer's oldest sister, who was his first piano teacher.

The Ministry Team

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