

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The Second Sunday of Christmas

January 2, 2022

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

How Lovely Shines the Morningstar

Paul Manz

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

INTROIT

From Heaven Above

trad. German

The Octet; text at hymn 111 in Glory to God hymnal

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

***HYMN 152**

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**Gather us, your children who run and hide,
ashamed, afraid, apathetic.**

We trade your goodness for ashes.

We trade your peace for control.

We trade your promise for certainty.

**Gather us to you and return us to your abundant mercy;
may it flow over us, renewing our weary souls.**

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**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 31:7–14

NEW TESTAMENT READING:

John 1:1–18

SERMON

Why Would God Do This?

Rev. Steve Jester

THE RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

Found on Page 34 in the Glory to God hymnal

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Here Is the Little Door

Herbert Howells

The Octet; *text on insert*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SHARING GRACE

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

Behold That Star

Christmas Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh

Laura Atkinson, mezzo-soprano; *text on insert*

*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!”

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE SENDING

*HYMN 459

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

March on PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

Norman Dello Joio

*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

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.

THE CHANCEL FLOWERS are given Jess and Susanne Wright in honor of their children and grandchildren: Dr. Andrew Wright, Stacy Estlick Wright, Ada and Harriet Wright, Dr. Laura Wright McCray, Ian McCray, Allison and Jesse McCray.

USHERS

Will Duncan, Allison Duncan, Sandy Bailey, Marcy Suter

OUR WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Steve Jester, preacher; Rev. Jordan Akin, liturgist
The Octet; Samuel Libra, Organist & conductor
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

Stuart Ferguson and his family upon the death of his brother, Bruce, Sr., 12/22/21.
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, 11/19/21.

ANTHEM TEXTS

Here Is the Little Door

Here is the little door,
lift up the latch, O lift!
We need not wander more,
but enter with our gift;
Our gift of finest gold.
Gold that was never bought or sold;
Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;
Incense in clouds about His head;
All for the child that stirs not in His sleep,
But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Behold That Star

Behold that star!
Behold that star up yonder!
Behold that star!
It is the star of Bethlehem.

There was no room found in the inn,
This is the star of Bethlehem,
For Him who was born free from sin.
This is the star of Bethlehem.

Herbert Howells

Bend low about His bed,
For each He has a gift;
See how His eyes awake,
Lift up your hands, O lift!
For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword.
(Defend with it thy little Lord!)
For incense, smoke of battle red,
Myrrh for the honored happy dead;
Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;
Touched by such tiny hands,
and Oh such tiny feet. *Frances Chesterton*

Christmas Spiritual, arr. H.T. Burleigh

Behold that star...

The Wise Men came on from the East,
To worship Him, the Prince of Peace.

Behold that star...

A song broke forth upon the night,
From angel hosts all robed in white.

Behold that star...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COVID PROTOCOL: Second's Re-opening Task Group, consistent with CDC and presbytery guidelines, emphasizes that regardless of vaccination status, wearing masks while gathering inside the church is strongly encouraged. Masking, while important for your own protection, is also an additional layer of protection for those around you, especially unvaccinated children and those who are at risk due to age or medical conditions. Masks are required in Weekday School spaces.

Due to rising infection rates brought by the omicron variant, the task group recommends no changes in protocol at this time. We had hoped to adjust masking protocols beginning this Sunday, January 2nd, but in an email discussion on Thursday the group unanimously recommended we continue current policy. They, and all the leadership of this congregation, are grateful for your understanding and patience as, together, we seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ in an uncertain and anxious time.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: THE HEALING PLACE

The Healing Place continues to be a beacon of hope to women and men hopelessly addicted to drugs and alcohol. This important mission partner serves a million meals yearly and has room to care for 1,000 clients across 3 campuses. There is no charge to clients and the majority remain there for at least 8-9 months before they are able to return to society. Everyone has a job to keep the facility running making the overhead only \$33 a day per client to be in the program. There is a long-term recovery program, detox, VA program, department of corrections program, intensive outpatient program (which provides free housing) sober living, aftercare programs, long-term overnight programs, homeless outreach program and housing contracts for people who need it.

We are collecting items during the month of January most needed by The Healing Place: deodorant, shampoo, toiletries, shaving products, hygiene products, etc. Please specify on the bag whether the items are for male or female. Additionally, clients are outdoors frequently walking to classes, so anything to help them stay warm will be well used such as the following: gloves, hats, coats, and scarves. Please drop off in the mission closet during church office hours or on Sundays. Thank you for your generosity!

UPCOMING EVENTS: Week of January 2, 2022

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday, January 3 for the New Year's holiday.

BOOK NOTES meets on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, at 10 a.m. We will meet by ZOOM and not in-person. Our book selection for January is *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich.

PRESBYTERIAN UNION meets at Vincenzo's downtown and by ZOOM this Tuesday, January 4 at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Ann Schell (adschell@bellsouth.net) by Monday at 4 p.m. to RSVP.

HOPE & HEALING WHILE GRIEVING meets Wednesday, January 5 in Room 251 and via ZOOM. See Seconds to Go for more details and the ZOOM link.

PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN MEET UP will take place this Saturday, January 8th from 10:00–11:30 in the Great Hall. Please enter through Door 1 (near the driveway by Chenoweth Lane). Contact Diana Jester at djester1101@twc.com for more information.

CHILDCARE, 2PK, & 2PY will resume next Sunday, January 9th.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 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.

2PY 2022 WINTER RETREAT MEETING on January 9th in the Fellowship Hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service and Congregational Meeting. This meeting is mandatory for all those who have signed up for the trip.

WEDNESDAYS TOGETHER will resume January 12.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT will take place on Saturday, January 22nd from 5 :00-8:30 p.m. Please contact Amy Heckmann, Childcare Coordinator at aheckmann@2ndpreslou.org by Monday the 17th to reserve your spot!

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright 152

Capo 2: (C) (Am) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G) (C) (F)
 D Bm A D G D A D G

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more
 2 'Tis now full-filled what God de-creed, "From
 3 While outward signs the star dis-plays, an
 4 O Je-sus, while the star of grace im-

(C) (G) (C) (F) (C) (G)
 D A D G D A

love-ly than the noon-day light? 'Tis
 Ja-cob shall a star pro-ceed;" and
 in-ward light the Lord con-veys and
 pels us on to seek your face, let

(Am) (D7) (G) (C) (F) (C) (Dm)
 Bm E7 A D G D Em

sent to an-nounce a new-born king, glad
 lo! the east-ern sa-ges stand to
 urg-es them, with ten-der might, to
 not our sloth-ful hearts re-fuse the

(G) (C) (G) (C) (F) (G) (C)
 A D A D G A D

ti-dings of our God to bring.
 read in heaven the Lord's com-mand.
 seek the giv-er of the light.
 guid-ance of your light to use.

This 18th-century Latin text calls attention to three kinds of light: the light of the star leading the Magi to the Christ-child, the inward light inspiring their journey, and Christ who is the Light of the world. The simple unison melody unites everything in a gentle arc.

459 O Word of God Incarnate

1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
 2 The church from you, dear Sav - ior, re - ceived this gift di - vine;
 3 O make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of pur - est gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
 and still that light is lift - ed on all the earth to shine.
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;

we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,
 O teach your wan - dering pil - grims by this our path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 a - mid the rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and storms thus end - ed, we see you face to face.

The opening four lines of this hymn celebrate attributes of Christ that are revealed through holy Scripture, which serves as a lantern, a chart, and a compass for the church in seeking to know Christ better. The setting of the tune comes from Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*.