

Service for the Lord's Day

The Gathering

PRELUDE excerpt from *Sonata in C-major* Tomaso Albinoni
Jayne Drummond, oboe; Jonathan Ruckman, cello

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen arr. David Willcocks
The Chamber Orchestra; Samuel Libra, organ

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Partita on Good Christian Friends, Rejoice James Vivian
Samuel Libra, organ

PRESENTING THE MEANS OF GRACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *read responsively*

8:30 a.m. Brian and Lisa Houghlin; Sam, Brooks and Lucy Owen

11 a.m. Brandon, Elizabeth, Evelyn, Nolan and William Hughes

Be strong! Do not fear!

The wilderness will become a place of joy. The desert will become a field for harvest.

Be strong! Do not fear!

The drought will break with a spring of water. The weeds and wild shrubs will become a highway for all God's children.

God is coming! Do not fear!

As we light our third Advent Candle,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

O come, all ye faithful, O king of Angels.

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

arr. Willcocks

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION *read responsively*

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power.

We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have.

We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us.

Clear our blindness to the needs of others.

Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you.

Help us to truly listen to one another,

not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts.

Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples.

Time for silent prayer.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.

Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*Children ages 3 through completed 3rd graders are welcome to come forward
and be dismissed through the side door for activities following the Peace.*

MUSICAL CELEBRATION

How Great Our Joy!

JUNGST

Austin Memorial Handbells; Samuel Libra, piano

arr. Lloyd Larson

The Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

James 5:7–11

Rev. Jordan Akin

REFLECTION

⁺*Waiting*

Frederick Buechner

Jim Rittenhouse

ANTHEM

⁺*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

SUO GAN

Ricky Case, tenor

arr. Nicholas Palmer

REFLECTION

⁺*Psalm 40 from A Poet's Bible*

David Rosenberg

Russ Dunlap

ANTHEM	+ <i>O Thou That Tellest</i> from MESSIAH Laura Atkinson, mezzo soprano	G.F. Handel
SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 35:1–10	Rev. Steve Jester
ANTHEM	+ <i>Hodie Christus Natus Est</i>	Healey Willan
REFLECTION	+ <i>An Open Door</i> Janet Rittenhouse	Pamela Cranston (on a theme by D. Bonhoeffer)
ANTHEM	+ <i>Fantasia on Christmas Carols</i> Jason Steigerwalt, baritone	Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Response

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *read responsively* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *adapted*

As if to shame the mightiest human efforts and achievements...As the redeemed people of God, please stand as you are able as we confess what we believe:

The infinite mercy of the almighty God comes to us in the form of a child, his son.

That this child has been born for *us*,

that this son has been given,

that this human child, this son of God, belongs to *me*;

**that I know him, have him, love him, that I am his and he is mine—
my very life now depends entirely on all these things.**

A child has our life in his hand. 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.**

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You are invited to pass the Friendship Pad found at the end of the pew.
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 *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Robert Shaw
 Sanctuary Choir; chamber orchestra & Russell Bennett
 Text can be found at #113 in the Glory to God hymnal.

*DOXOLOGY *While Shepherds Watched Their Flock* WINCHESTER OLD

**All glory be to God on high, to Jesus, Prince of Peace,
And to the Spirit, Three in One, our praises never cease.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *read in unison*

**Christ calls us to live generous and grateful lives. Take these gifts we
offer today in joy, O God, and use them to the fulfillment of Christ's
ministry. May these gifts help to heal the sick, comfort the lonely, feed
the hungry, house the homeless. As Christ's hands and feet, use us
too, in service to building your beloved community. Amen.**

The Sending

*HYMN 134 *Joy to the World* ANTIOCH
 vss. 1, 2 & 4 arr. John Rutter

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Toccata on God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Wm. Lloyd Webber

*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.*

We Lift Up in Prayer

John Y. Brown III and his family on the death of his father, John Y. Jr., 11/28/22.

The family of Carolyn Allen on her death, 11/22/22.

Louise & Wallace Horine and their family on the death of their daughter, Margaret Lynn Adair, 11/14/2022.

David, Leslie, Nancy, Susan, and the Morrow family on the death of mother Barbara, 10/31/22.

Stephanie Altobellis, Allysa, and Sergey Dunbar, Martha Hall, Sarah Parker, and the Dunbar family on the death of husband, father, and brother, Tom Dunbar, 10/30/22.

Let the Earth Rejoice!

Texts & Translations

Waiting

Frederick Buechner

I think we are waiting. That is what is at the heart of it. Even when we don't know that we are waiting, I think we are waiting. Even when we can't find words for what we are waiting for, I think we are waiting. An ancient Advent prayer supplies us with the words. "Give us grace," it says, "that we may cast off the works of darkness and put upon us the armor of light." We who live much of the time in the darkness are waiting not just at Advent, but at all times for the advent of light, of that ultimate light that is redemptive and terrifying at the same time. It is redemptive because it puts an end to the darkness, and that is also why it is terrifying, because for so long, for all our lives, the darkness has been home, and because to leave home is always cause for terror...

So to wait for Christ to come in his fullness is not just a passive thing, a pious, prayerful, churchly thing. On the contrary, to wait for Christ to come in his fullness is above all else to act in Christ's stead as fully as we know how. To wait for Christ is as best we can to be Christ to those who need us to be Christ to them most and to bring them the most we have of Christ's healing and hope because unless we bring it, it may never be brought at all.

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Mary Louise Bringle

Now the heavens start to whisper,
as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen,
to the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted,
child to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frostline,
hearts grow soft to welcome him.

Christ, eternal sun of justice,
Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
come to bless with fire and fragrance
hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger,
in the outcast, hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger,
teach our hearts to welcome you.

Comfort my people
comfort your people my Lord speaking
in my voice saying speak to the heart of Jerusalem tenderly
in a voice embracing her
call to her that her exile is over
Come home, the sentence is over that knocked the voice out of her...
Listen—a voice is calling to open a road through the desert
clear a highway for the Lord straight through the desert
and through your voice which is parched...
Stand up prophets and speak to Jerusalem
your tired litany reawakens as poetry
embrace her with good news
speak to her, heart of Zion, from the top of the mountain
let your voice rise to the mountains with the strength of love
fearless headline of truth.

O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion from MESSIAH Isaiah 7:14, 40:9, & 60:1, *adapted*

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel—
God with us.

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain:
O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
Lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Antiphon for Christmas Day

Hodie Christus natus est:
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli
Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Alleluia.

Today Christ is born:
Today the Savior appears:
Today the angels sing on earth,
and the Archangels rejoice.
Today the just exult, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia.

An Open Door

Pamela Cranston

(on a theme by D. Bonhoeffer)

Look how long
the weary world waited,
locked in its lonely cell,
guilty as a prisoner.
As you can imagine,
it sang and whistled in the dark.
It hoped. It paced and pattered about,
tidying its little piles of inconsequence.
It wept from the weight of ennui,
draped like shackles on its wrists.
It raged and wailed against the walls
of its own plight.

But there was nothing
the world could do
to find its own freedom.
The door was shut tight.
It could only be opened
from the outside.
Who could believe the latch
would be turned by a pink flower—
the tiny hand
of a newborn baby?

Fantasia on Christmas Carols

This is the truth sent from above,
The truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door,
But hearken all, both rich and poor.

The first thing, which I do relate,
That God at first did man create
The next thing, which to you I tell,
Woman was made with him to dwell.

Then after this, 'twas God's own choice
To place them both in Paradise,
There to remain from evil free
Except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin,
And thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me,
And all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes,
Till God the Lord did interpose
For so a promise soon did run
That He'd redeem us with a Son.

Come all you worthy gentlemen
That may be standing by.
Christ our blessed Savior
Was born on Christmas day.

The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did say,
O we wish you the comfort
and tidings of joy!

Christ our blessed Savior
Now in the manger lay;
He's lying in the manger,
While the oxen fed on hay.

trad. English carols, *adapt.* R.V.W.

The blessed Virgin Mary...

God bless the ruler of this house,
And long on may he reign;
Many happy Christmases
He live to see again!

God bless our generation
Who live both far and near;
O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy!

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.

When sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before His grace,
then life and health come in its place;
angels and men with joy may sing,
all for to see the newborn King.

From out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light,
which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
now and forevermore. Amen.

Christmas at Second

December 24

Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service, 5:00 p.m.

in Sanctuary (Live-streamed)

*Music from The Octet, Christina & Isabella Recktenwald,
& Samuel Libra, organ*

Lessons & Carols Candlelight & Communion Service

9:00 p.m. *in Sanctuary (Live-streamed)*

*Music from The Sanctuary Choir, String Ensemble, Laura Atkinson &
Christina Recktenwald, soloists, Louisa Woodson, harp
& Samuel Libra, organ*

Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

11:00 p.m. *in Chapel*

Music from Second's Musicians, including Ricky Case, tenor

December 25 - Christmas Day

One Service at 11:00 a.m. *in Sanctuary (Live-streamed)*

January 1 - Second Sunday of Christmas

One Service at 11:00 a.m. *in Sanctuary (Live-streamed)*

January 8 - Epiphany Sunday with Communion

Two Services: 8:30 a.m. *in Chapel &*

11:00 a.m. *in Sanctuary (Live-streamed)*

The Ministry Team

Rev. Steven P. Jester sjester@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Pastor</i>
Rev. Jordan Akin jakin@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Associate Pastor for Formation & Mission</i>
Rev. Rich Gianzero rgianzero@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Interim Associate Pastor</i>
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Christina Recktenwald callasbouras@twc.com	<i>Children's Choirs Coordinator</i>
Jim Rogers jrogers@2ndpreslou.org	<i>Facilities Manager</i>
Paula S. Roberts	<i>Organist Emerita</i>



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O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

134 Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.