

First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem
Second Sunday of Christmas
Digital Traditional Service
January 3, 2021



The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE People, Look East Setting, J. Daryl Hollinger

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN

#462

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

RATISBON

1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Daystar, in my heart appear.
2. Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see,
Till they inward light impart,
Cheer my eyes and warm my heart.
3. Visit then this soul of mine;
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, radiance divine;
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the ages, we confess to you that we come into 2021 as a weary and anxious people. We have gladly closed the door on a troubled and traumatic year, but we know that we drag our brokenness behind us, and that the mere turning of a calendar page is no guarantee of a new creation. And yet, in Jesus Christ, you still come to dwell among us with your abiding promise of renewal and redemption, and to enlist us in works of compassion, justice, and peace. Light of the world, shine on in the midst of our darkness. Guide us, comfort us, instruct us, and strengthen us, so that we may show your love to the world in all we are and all we do. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Vocalise" from 14 Songs, Opus 34

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Dr. Aaron Patterson, saxophone

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1:3-14

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Simmons

"Coming Into Our Own"

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#53

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

1. What Child is this who laid to rest
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!
3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone Him.
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory Of the Father's Love Begotten
Rebecca Erhardt, soprano

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

* Response - #592

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost

* Prayer of Dedication

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly right and our greatest joy to
give you thanks and praise...
As our Savior Christ has taught us,
so now we pray:

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst/arr. B. Deamer

Rebecca Erhardt, Soprano

Prayer After Communion

CLOSING HYMN

#327

O Word of God Incarnate

MUNICH

1. O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.
2. The church from You, dear Savior,
Received this gift divine,
And still that light is lifted
On all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Amid the rocks and quicksands,
Still guides, O Christ, to You.
3. O make your church, dear Savior,
A lamp of purest gold
To bear before the nations

Your true light, as of old;
O teach your wandering pilgrims
By this our path to trace,
Till, clouds and storms thus ended,
We see You face to face.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending Setting, David N. Johnson