



First Sunday After Christmas Combined Service

December 26, 2021

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Chorale Partita on "From Earth to Heaven"

F. Zachau

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

One: We are courageous when we are vulnerable.

All: We are courageous when we are honest with ourselves.

One: We are courageous when we extend words of welcome.

All: We are courageous when we invite others to sit with us.

One: We are courageous when we proclaim the love of God to a broken, hurting world.

All: We are courageous when create God's home here and now.

One: So let us be courageous—

All: let us worship God.

OPENING HYMN

#31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven
adored,
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus our Emmanuel.

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that we no more may die.
Born to raise us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**We could offer welcome, but we often choose judgment.
We could choose action, but we often choose silence.
We could choose advocacy, but we often choose comfort.
We could choose truth, but we often choose ignorance.
We could choose God, but we often choose ourselves.
Forgive us, gracious God, for the moments when we chose poorly.
Give us courage like Joseph—courage to choose you, to choose community, to choose love. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

Judy Smullen

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON

The Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton

“Close to Home: Chosen Home”

WE RESPOND

HYMN

#28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO

1 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!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

3 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!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *from A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen"

setting J. Brahms

*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

CLOSING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#29

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.

1 While shepherds kept their
watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.

2 The shepherds feared and
trembled,
When lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angels chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth.

3 Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Alleluia from "Christmas Oratorio"

C. Saint-Saens/arr. D. Bish

Announcements:

- The building/office/Preschool are closed this week. The South entrance will be open from 9 a.m.-noon this Wednesday, December 29 so end of year donations can be dropped off. If mailed, they must be **postmarked** by this Wednesday, December 29.
- Next Sunday's services (January 2) will return to our regular schedule; it will be Communion Sunday.
- Our Faith & Formation Hour (Hearts N Minds adult ed class and kids formation class) will resume on Sunday, January 9.

If you would like to make a secure online donation to FPCB, you can visit fpc-bethlehem.org/donate, or use this QR code to go directly to that page (on your mobile phone, open the camera and point it at the QR code – it will take you to this website page).



First Presbyterian Church of Bethlehem

2344 Center Street, Bethlehem, PA 18017

610-867-5865 fpc-bethlehem.org

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info@fpc-bethlehem.org