FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF BETHLEHEM

Second Sunday After Christmas
Traditional Service
January 2, 2022

The Service for the Lord's Day

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Fanfare for Christmas — Joseph C. Bridge

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PASSING THE PEACE

OPENING HYMN — #22

Angels from the Realms of Glory — REGENT SQUARE

1 Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.

Refrain:
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

2 Shepherds, in the field abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
Yonder shines the infant light:

3 Sages, leave your contemplations,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations;
Ye have seen His natal star.

4 All creation, join in praising
God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising
To the eternal Three in One.

WE CONFESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, at the start of this new year, we confess that in some ways it doesn't feel like the beginning of anything. Facing yet another wave of illness, and political division, and a host of other worries, we're tempted to draw back and shut down; and closer to home, we find that bad habits and negative attitudes don't simply expire with the turning of a calendar page. We confess that, like the wise men trudging their way

across the desert to follow the star of Bethlehem, we find hope to be hard work. Yet your light still shines in the darkness, reminding us that nothing can separate us from your love, and that your Spirit continues to do its quiet work in us and in our world. Open our eyes, open our hearts, and draw us ever closer to you, that we may tell and show the Good News of Immanuel, God with us, in this and every new day. In your holy name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

WE LISTEN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1: 3-14 Nick Suarez

Leader: The word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SERMON The Rev. Dr. Stephen Simmons

"*Here It Is!*"

WE RESPOND

HYMN #684

Faith Begins by Letting Go LUX PRIMA

From *Glory to God,* see insert

AFFIRMATIONS 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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR OFFERING

Call to Give

Offertory "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion", from *Messiah* George F. Handel

Madison Zahorsky, soprano

*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

WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

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:

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

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Music During Communion Sicilienne — Maria Theresia Paradis

CLOSING HYMN — #61

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime — UN JEUNE PUCELLE

1 'Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain
Jesus, your King, is born;
Jesus is born!
In excelsis gloria!

2 Within a lodge of broken bark,
The tender Babe was found
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped His beauty round
And as the hunter braves drew nigh,
The angel song rang loud and high:
(Refrain)

3 O children of the forest free,
O songs of Manitou
The Holy Child of earth and heav'n
Is born this day for you
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy: (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Fanfare Kenneth Leighton

Worship Note: Portions of this morning's communion liturgy were written by the Rev. Shelli Latham, pastor at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church in Atlanta

Announcements:

- The church building, office, and Preschool will re-open for regular hours tomorrow, January 3.
- Looking ahead: The church building, office, and Preschool will close in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday on Monday, January 17.
- On Sunday, January 30 we will gather for a Combined Worship Service at 10 a.m., followed by the annual Congregational Meeting

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Faith Begins by Letting Go 684



This text affirms that faith is not a state of being but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world. The movement from one stage of faith to another is suggested by gestures of the hand: letting go, holding on, reaching out.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1995
MUSIC: Charles F. Gounod, 1872
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LUX PRIMA
7.7.7.7.7.7