

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING WORSHIP

NINE AND ELEVEN O'CLOCK
SUNDAY ~ DECEMBER 27, 2020

"Let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service, with reverence and awe." Hebrews 12:28

The Silent Prayer Upon Entering the Sanctuary

Almighty God, who has given us Your only-begotten Son, the brightness of Your glory, and the express image of Your person, to take our nature upon Him, and to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit; till Christ is perfectly formed in us, and we are made partakers of a Divine nature, through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

The Prelude - "Two Pastorales"

Bernardo Pasquini

+ The Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship

+* The Hymnal - #203 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Mendelssohn

* The Invocation 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.

* The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell*; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;** the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* this refers to the realm of the dead, not the place of punishment.

** "catholic" means "universal" church, the true church in all times and places.

* The Gloria Patri

(Hymnal, #271)

Lyngham

All glory to the Father be, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Son,
all glory to the Spirit be while endless ages run, while endless ages
run, while endless ages run.

The Pastoral Prayer

The Scripture Reading - Matthew 17 (21st reading)

Isaiah 40:6-8

⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

* **The Psalter - Psalm 90:1–9** St. Catherine

* **The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Solo - “In the Bleak Midwinter” arr. Keith and Kristyn Getty

Soloist: Miss Molly Elizabeth Gibson

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heav’n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heav’n and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
For the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Gloria, gloria! Now my eyes have seen;
Soli Deo Gloria! He salvation brings.
As the Lord has promised, I may go in peace.

* **The Doxology** Puer Nobis
All praise, O risen Lord, we give to thee, who, dead, again dost live; to
God the Father equal praise, and God the Holy Ghost, we raise. Amen.

The Sermon Mr. Johnson

“THE LESSONS OF 2020”

* **The Hymnal - #216 “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”** W Zlobie Lezy

* **The Benediction and Response** (sung by all) St. Louis
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and
enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great
glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.
(*Trinity Hymnal, #201, last stanza*)

**The Postlude - “Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her/From Heaven
Above to Earth I Come”** George Böhm

Text:

From heaven above to earth I come
To bear good news to every home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen mother mild;
This little child of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

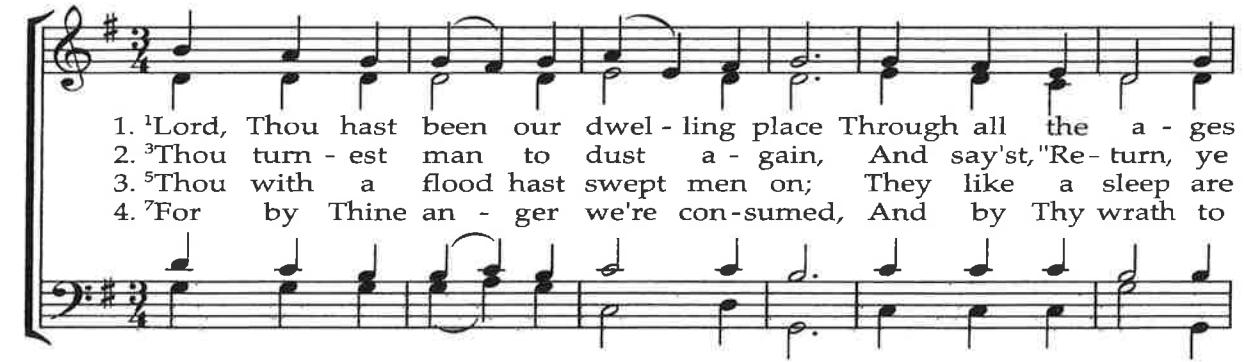
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Psalm 90:1-9



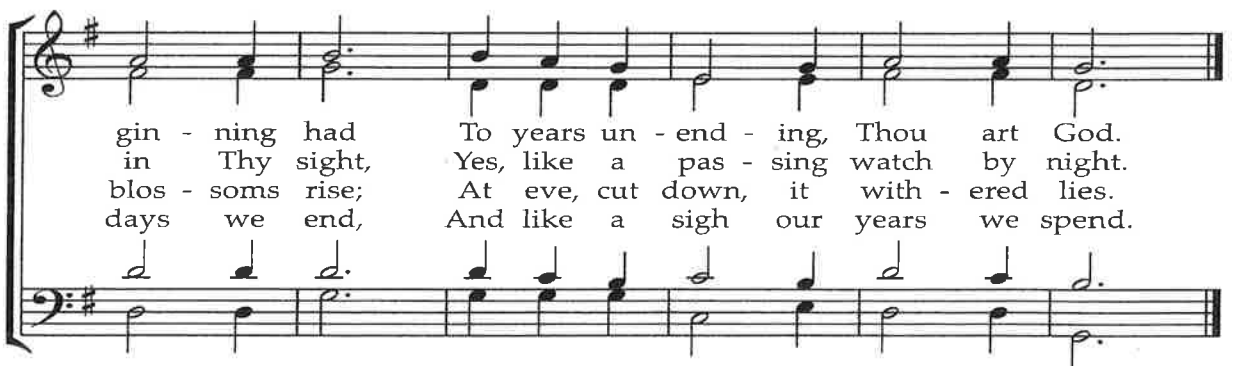
1. ¹Lord, Thou hast been our dwell - ing place Through all the a - ges
2. ³Thou turn - est man to dust a - gain, And say'st, "Re - turn, ye
3. ⁵Thou with a flood hast swept men on; They like a sleep are
4. ⁷For by Thine an - ger we're con - sumed, And by Thy wrath to



of_ our race. ²Be - fore the moun - tains had_ their birth,
sons of men." ⁴As yes - ter - day_ when past ap - pears,
quick - ly gone. They are like grass which grows each morn;
ter - ror doomed. ⁸Our sins Thou in_ Thy sight dost place,



Or e - ver Thou hadst formed_ the earth, From years which no be -
So are to Thee a thou - sand years; They like a day are
⁶Its blades of green the fields a - dorn. At morn its sprouts and
Our se - cret faults be - fore_ Thy face; ⁹So in Thy wrath our



gin - ning had To years un - end - ing, Thou art God.
in Thy sight, Yes, like a pas - sing watch by night.
blos - soms rise; At eve, cut down, it with - ered lies.
days we end, And like a sigh our years we spend.

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

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He is Lord of lords and King of kings—and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. Rev. 17:14

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Polish carol
Paraphrased by Edith M. G. Reed, ca. 1925

W ZLOBIE LEZY 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.
Traditional Polish melody
Arr. in *The Kingsway Carol Book*

ON-LINE FRIENDSHIP CARD

We extend a warm welcome and express our delight that you have chosen to visit the historic Independent Presbyterian Church. In order to have a record of your visit and to become better acquainted with you, we would ask you to use the QR code attached to fill out our on-line friendship card.

With your smartphone, open the camera app and point it at the QR image. If you are viewing via live webcast you may use this link:
<https://ipcs.ga/friendship>.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR MINISTRY TODAY

A.M. Sunday School

Adult Sunday School taught by Mr. Foster is accessible at SermonAudio.com/ipcsav. The title of the class is *Encounters With Jesus*. This week we will study "The Shadow of the Cross" (Mark 10:32-34).

Children (Pre-K – 5th Grade) – Sunday School materials provided to parents.

Middle School & High School are encouraged to participate in the Adult Sunday School taught by Mr. Foster.

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. – Morning Worship (On-site and live-stream).

4:00 P.M. - No Handbell Choir rehearsal

5:30 P.M. – Evening Worship (On-site and live-stream). **No Evening meal will be served tonight.**

Nursery – (infants through 3-year-olds) will be available at the 9:00 a.m. service and 5:30 p.m. service. Reserve nursery care when you register for services.

LIVE-STREAM PLATFORMS

SermonAudio ipcs.ga/sawebcast

Facebook ipcs.ga/facebooklive

YouTube ipcs.ga/YouTube

Periscope ipcs.ga/periscope

ON-LINE THIS WEEK

Adult Meetings: This week the following meetings are planned to take place on-line:

Tuesday, 6:30 a.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast (both on-site and ZOOM)

Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

iPrimes Bible Study (older adults) (via ZOOM only)

ON-SITE THIS WEEK

Men's Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast – 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and also via ZOOM meeting.

Wednesday Noon Service – will not meet December 30.

College Bible Study – Monday at 7:00 p.m. in the Carriage House.

Wednesday Evening – Sanctuary Choir will not rehearse on December 30.

No Youth Choir

No Middle School/High School Youth Gatherings this week.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the celebration of *Joanne Johansen's birthday* by Paul, P.J., Tracy, Haley and Piper Johansen.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

All contributions for 2020 need to be in the office by December 30, or postmarked by Thursday, December 31.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed on Thursday, December 31, and Friday, January 1, in observance of New Year's Eve and Day. It will reopen on Monday, January 4, 2021, at 8:30 a.m.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

We continue to maintain safe practices during the pandemic. Every reasonable step is taken to safeguard the well-being of all who attend our services:

- seating in every other pew
- pews wiped down between services
- alternate pews used between services
- hymnals and Bibles removed from the sanctuary
- expanded bulletins used for the entire order of worship
- Additional precautions are taken in connection with the nursery, the Sunday night fellowship suppers, the Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast, and other gatherings.

As always, those with pre-existing conditions or other vulnerabilities have access to our services "live" on-line, and after-the-fact at SermonAudio and YouTube.

Please be informed of the most recent Chatham County Emergency Order regarding Covid-19 as it relates to religious services (www.chathamcountyga.gov).