

Order for the Public Worship of God
December 23, 2018
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM Worship Service

THE GATHERING

(Let the congregation be silent, and in prayer as the music begins.
Please silence electronic devices.)

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING VOLUNARY “Joy to the World” Joseph M. Martin
(Acolytes symbolically bring in the light of Christ & then take it out into the world.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Stephanie Carson, Music Ministry Garage Sale

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Please complete the bulletin insert, “FRIENDSHIP SHEET,” and pass it toward the center aisle.)

*CAROL MEDLEY

#132 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” IN DULCI JUBILO
Stanzas 1,2,3

#117 “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” WINCHESTER OLD
Stanza 1-all
Stanza 2-all
Stanza 4-choir only
Stanza 6-all

#143 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” REGENT SQUARE
Stanzas 1,2

CHORAL CALL TO CONFESSION

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together)

While we ask, Lord, for the most meaningful Advent season ever, we sadly confess having done so little with so much. Forgive us Lord, for not bending the knee, for not reading your Word, for not searching our hearts, for not facing our sins. Forgive us according to your tender mercies, O God! Grant that when Christmas morning breaks for us this year, we may have a fresh sense of your presence and a renewed resolve to live to the praise of Christ’s glory. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #108 (stanza 1) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore! Amen.

THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

Lighting the Candle—Cassondra & Annabelle Fredriksen
The reader offers words about the candle of love.

All Singing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

STORY

“Hi There!” by Nancy Dahlbe
Zoe Holcomb, Reader

ANTHEM

“Go Tell It on the Mountain” arr. John Rutter
(the text appears at hymn #136)

OUR MINISTRY WITH THE CHILDREN

(Children ages 3yrs – kindergarten are welcome to remain in service with their parents or join us in room 3 for Children’s Church.)

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING “O Little Town of Bethlehem” arr. Al Roberts
Heather Wood, Clarinet; Dylan Cantin, Bassoon

*DOXOLOGY & PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE FIRST NOEL

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

STORY

“If You’re Missing Baby Jesus, Call 7162” by Jean Gietzen
Nancy Turner, Reader

ANTHEM

“Shout! Sing Hallelujah!” Heather Sorenson
Westminster Youth Choir

Shout to God! Sing out a hallelujah! Shout to God! Let all the world rejoice!
Lift your voice, and with all the people, sing to the newborn King!

Shout to God! Let all the world exclaim: “Praise His name, who life everlasting brings!”

He’s the new born King!

Let the oceans clap their hands; mountains leap for joy:

Trees bow down and stars adore this tiny, baby Boy!

Gloria,
Hallelujah,
In excelsis Deo,
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Shout to God! Let all the world exclaim: “Praise His name, who life everlasting brings!”

He’s the newborn King! Son of God, Son of Man, Holy Lamb! He is the King!

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THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

CAROL #121 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” ST. LOUIS
(stanza 1)

#123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” CAROL
(stanza 1)

#113 “Angels We Have Heard on High” GLORIA
(stanza 1)

ANTHEM

“Run, Shepherds!” Victor C. Johnson
Sarah Flaherty, Lindsey Peterson, Dylan Cantin,
David Hamilton, Heather Wood

WE UNITE IN PRAYER AND SACRAMENT

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

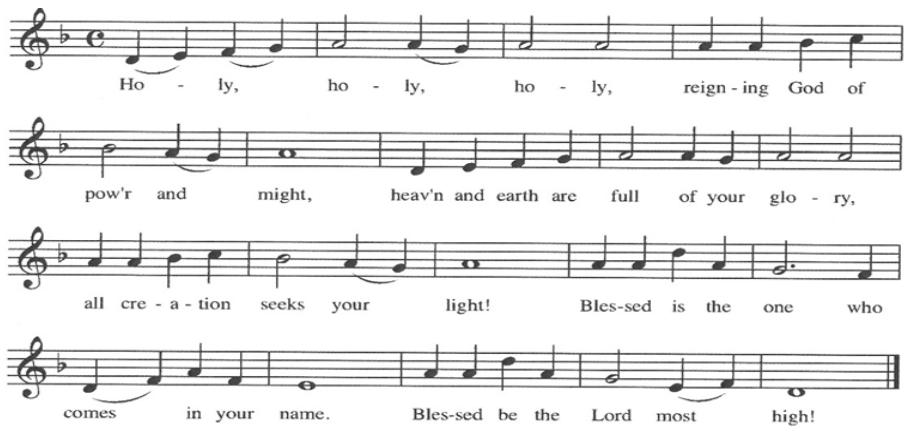
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you...

The pastor gives thanks appropriate for Christmas, remembering God’s act of salvation, and concludes:

...and so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join your unending hymn:



(all singing)

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving, recalling the institution of the Lord’s Supper. The Pastor concludes:

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

The pastor continues, recalling the work of the Holy Spirit and Christ’s coming again

PRAYERS OF PRAISE AND 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Serving is by intinction. Come in two lines down the center aisle to the front, take a piece of bread and dip it lightly in the cup. Return to your seat by the side aisles.)