

**\*DOXOLOGY**  
*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. Amen.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER** (Traditional) Hymnal Page 16

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*CAROL SING**  
**HYMN 48**

**HYMN 27**

**HYMN 31**

*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming*

*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming From tender stem hath sprung,  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, By faithful prophets sung,  
It came a floweret bright, Amid the cold of winter,  
When half spent was the night.  
Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, The rose I have in mind,  
With Mary we behold it, The virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright She bore for us a Savior,  
When half spent was the night.*

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

*Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;  
There He lay, the underfiled, To the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, Can He be the Savior?  
Ask the saved of all the race Who have found His favor.*

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*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.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”*

ES IST EIN’ ROS’

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

MENDELSSOHN

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** O Little Town of Bethlehem

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him, Still the dear Christ enters in.*

Hymn 44

**POSTLUDE**

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Sowerby

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**LEBANON, TENNESSEE**  
*Service for the Lord’s Day*  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 18, 2016

11:00 a.m.



**THE GATHERING**  
*To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever*

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**PRELUDE** Pastorale on “What Is This Lovely Fragrance” Lovelace

**CHIMING THE HOUR**

**CHORAL INTROIT**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Sheridan and Rachel Henson  
Finley and Ellie

Leader: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!  
(to congregation) Let us pray together.

People: (unison) God of love, you have sent your Son as the light of the world. Even now that light is breaking in upon us. May we reflect the light of your love, even as we wait for your coming. Amen.

Sing: Come, come, Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

\* HYMN NO. 23

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO RECONCILIATION  
UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Promise,  
with unhurried gentleness you draw near to us,  
urging us to lift our eyes to the infinite stars  
and observe the wonders you have prepared.  
Yet, where there is light, we choose to see darkness;  
where there is joy, we choose to see weariness of heart;  
where there is divinity, we choose to see the mundane.  
Forgive us, Lord, if we seek the familiar instead of the extraordinary.  
Forgive us, when we fail to see the glory of Bethlehem.  
Forgive us, when we ignore the signs of your ancient love.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: In the name of the one God who lives and moves among us,  
believe the Good News:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

\* GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Hymn No. 23

\* THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.  
And also with you.

\* Those who are able are invited to stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.  
Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,  
the hoping, the longing,  
the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.  
Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,  
and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God!

Isaiah 52:7-10

ANTHEM

Once in Royal David’s City

John Leavitt

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Children are invited to come forward.

SERMON

Flowers in the Desert: New Life in God’s Kingdom

Sherard Edington

The Messenger of Peace

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

\* HYMN NO. 36

In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

Once In Royal David’s City

Callahan