

SENDING FORTH

*CAROL SING

HYMN 31

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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

HYMN 53

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

HYMN 27

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

Gentle Mary laid her child Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, 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.

HYMN 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
Christ, the Lord!

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 44

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.

POSTLUDE

Toccata on "Ave Maris Stella"

Flor Peeters

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December 23, 2018

11:00 a.m.



THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Magnificat

Johann Pachelbel

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Alice & Jeff Gossage

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. 8 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRIURO

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION Barbara Howell

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God of love, in this season of Advent, we rejoice that you come to us in the flesh. We confess that we ignore your visions and that we are afraid to take leaps of faith. We choose to conform to this world rather than comply with your will. We reject your presence and try to go it alone.

Forgive us of our many sins. Help us fulfill your call to be your agents of mercy. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: As we open our hearts to God, we are filled with the joy that was sung at the birth. Friends, believe the good news:

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

*GLORIA Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

RECOGNITION OF OUR GRADUATE Rex Bouton

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 Isaiah 7:10-16
Matthew 1:18-25

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came Hal H. Hopson

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:
“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary, Must highly favored lady!” Gloria!*

*“For know a blessed Mother thou shall be; all generations laud and honor thee:
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold. Most highly favored lady!” Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most highly favored lady!” Gloria! Gloria!*

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN Children are invited to come forward.

SERMON Searching to Serve Rev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence PICARDY

*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 Recitative on the Nasard Louis Nicholas Clerambault

*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