

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEBANON, TENNESSEE

Service for the Lord's Day

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

11:00 a.m.



THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Noel with Variations

Balbastre

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Sloane Family

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

Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo;
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*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

Matthew 25:31-46

Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Sanctum Nomen

Margaret Rizza

*Sanctum nomen Domini
magnificat anima mea.*

*My soul praises and magnifies
the name of the Lord.*

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Children are invited to come forward.

SERMON

Focused on Faith: Be Merciful

Rev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 24

Away in a Manger (Choir vs. 1; All vss. 2-3)

CRADLE SONG

*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 He Came In Blessing

J.S. Bach

*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 38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold;
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, From heaven’s all gracious King”:
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.*

HYMN 3

Comfort, Comfort You My People

PSALM 42

*Comfort, comfort you my people, Tell of peace, thus says our God;
Comfort those who sit in darknesss Bowed beneath oppression’s load.
Speak you to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them;
Tell them that their sins I cover, And their warfare now is over.*

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!*

*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

Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying

Manz