



Our purpose is to nurture love of God, neighbor, and self.

December 26, 2021

11:00 am

+ indicates you are invited to stand

First Sunday of Christmas

Prelude

Noel sur les flutes

Louis-Claude Daquin

+ Call to Worship

Howard Thurman

One: I will light candles this Christmas.

**All: Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.
Candles of love to inspire all my living.
Candles that will burn all the year long.**

+ Hymn 84 *Creator of the Stars of Night*

Blessing

How the Light Comes

Jan Richardson

Birth

Luke 2: 6-7

When they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Hymn 139 *(sing seated) That Boy-Child of Mary, verses 1 and 2*

News

Luke 2:10-11

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord."

+Hymn 147 *The First Nowell, verses 1 and 2*

Jesus

Luke 2:21

His parents named him Jesus. That was the name given to him by the angel before he was conceived.

Gifts

Spend a moment praying the following breath prayer, with the gift you most want to receive and share filling in the blank.

*INHALE: There is still _____. (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love)
EXHALE: God, thank you.*

Temple

Luke 2:22b

In accordance with the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

Hymn 148 (*sing seated*) *Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple* (tune: BUNESSAN)

Salvation

Luke 2:28-32

Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God. He said, "Now, master, let your servant go in peace according to your word, because my eyes have seen your salvation. You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

Prayer

W.H. Auden – adapted from "For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio"

One (Simeon): And because of God's visitation, we may no longer desire God as if God were lacking: our redemption is no longer a question of pursuit but of surrender to God, who is always and everywhere present. Therefore at every moment we pray that, following Christ, we may depart from our anxiety into His peace.

All: Its errors forgiven, may our Vision come home.

Silent prayer.

Prophecy

Luke 2:33-35

His father and mother were amazed by what was said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "This boy is assigned to be the cause of the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that generates opposition so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your innermost being, too.

Hymn 94 (*sing seated*) *Now the Heavens Start to Whisper*

Magi

Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him."

+ Hymn 150 *As with Gladness Men of Old, verses 1 and 2*

Bloodshed

Matthew 2:3, 16b

When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him He sent soldiers to kill all the male children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger.

Hymn 784 (*sing seated, twice*) *By the Waters of Babylon*

Escape

Matthew 2:14b-15a

Joseph took Jesus and his mother to Egypt. They stayed there until Herod died.

Hymn 154 (sing seated) Jesus Entered Egypt,

Verse 1: ALL
Verse 2: Organ solo
Verse 3: ALL

Prayers of the People

from the Iona Community's Wild Goose Worship Group



"Lord, have mercy" is repeated after each iteration of "Let us pray to the Lord."
At the end, after "and this we pray in Jesus' name":



Offering

Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, or any communications to the Pastor or staff in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary.

Monetary gifts, special offerings and pledges to GPPC may also be given online: <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>.

If you'd like to make a special offering, please consider the following:

The PCUSA Christmas Joy Gift. One of four PCUSA Special Offerings, this offering provides financial assistance to church workers and their families in times of need and by developing future leaders of color through scholarships at Presbyterian schools and colleges. To make your contribution directly, go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/gift-info/christmas-joy/>

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Tornadoes in the Midwest. You can help survivors of the December 11 tornado outbreak in the US Midwest by contributing to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance relief effort. <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000015/>
Please be sure to mark your contribution "Disaster Relief-USA Disasters & Emergencies (DR000015)."

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

+Hymn 545 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

+ Charge

Howard Thurman / Jim Strathdee

Benediction

The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude

Noel Suisse

Louis-Claude Daquin

ABOUT WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Our director of music is Doug Brown. Sherry McCormick and Erica Angert are lectors. Managing the Facebook Livestream is Alfred Walker. Andre Estep is our Sexton. Ardyth Lohuis is our Greeter. Scott Carswell will follow church procedures in moving your offerings from the boxes at the back of the Sanctuary to the offices of GPPC.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES are available in the Narthex. Please see today's greeter or an usher.

PLEASE TAKE THE PAPER BULLETIN YOU HAVE USED home for reference and/or recycling. Thank you!!

POINSETTIAS - Thanks to everyone who purchased a poinsettia to decorate our chancel. If you would like to take your poinsettia home after worship, please do. Any poinsettias not retrieved will be donated to local group homes and/or homebound members of GPPC. If you would like to deliver one of these, please tell us so!

ANNOUNCEMENTS about events in the life of GPPC are available through a weekly e-newsletter. If you would like to be added to the distribution, please contact Karen Mitscherlich at ginterparkpc@gmail.com.

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