



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

The Lord's Day

December 17, 2023

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 17, 2023

## Preparation for Worship

**Music for Gathering**

**Announcements**

**Scripture for Meditation**

Psalm 103:20-22

Bless the LORD, you His angels,  
Who excel in strength, who do His word,  
Heeding the voice of His word.  
Bless the LORD, all you His hosts,  
You ministers of His, who do His pleasure.  
Bless the LORD, all His works,  
In all places of His dominion.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

**Silent Prayer of Preparation**

## God Calls Us Into His Presence

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### † Salutation and Responsive Call to Worship

Pastor: We are gathered in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,

**People: And a branch shall grow out of his roots.**

Isaiah 11:1

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**People: Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light  
has shined.**

Isaiah 9:2

Pastor: Give unto the LORD the glory due His name;

**People: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**

Psalm 29:2

## We Respond to God's Call

### †\* Hymn of Praise, No. 218

*Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

**Congregational Response: Amen!**

### † Prayer of Adoration

## God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

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**Call to Confession**

Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**We Confess Our Sins** (congregation kneels as able)

**All: Lord, we have not kept watch for You.**

**We have occupied ourselves with our own concerns.**

**We have not waited to find Your will for us.**

**We have not noticed the needs of the people around us.**

We have not acknowledged the love that has been shown to us.  
Forgive us for our lack of watchfulness.  
Help us wait to know Your will.  
Help us to look out for the needs of others.  
Help us to work and watch for Your coming.  
[silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† **Assurance of Pardon** Matthew 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.

## **We Respond to God's Declaration of Forgiveness**

† **The Gloria Patri** (with hands lifted)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen, amen.*

†\* **Hymn of Praise, No. 478** *I Love to Tell the Story*

**Congregational Response: Amen!**

## **God Consecrates us By His Word**

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**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 148:1-6

**Congregational Response**

Elder: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

† **Psalm 133** Tune: TRYGGARE VAN INGEN VARA, *Children of the Heavenly Father*

Be-hold, how sweet, how pleasant,  
When the brethren dwell together;  
All in unity abiding  
Find God's blessing there presiding.

Like the precious oil of blessing  
Flowing down on Aaron's vestment,  
God's anointing rests forever  
Where His people dwell forever.

Like the dew of Hermon's fountain  
Falling down on Zion's mountain,  
So the blessings of the Savior  
Dwells where unity finds favor.

**Congregational Response: Amen!**

† **New Testament Reading** **Luke 2:8-15**

† **Congregational Response** Romans 15:4

Pastor: For whatever things were written before were written for our learning,  
People: **that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might  
have hope.**

**Sermon**

*"Gloria" (Luke's Nativity Hymns, 3)"*

## **We Respond to God's Instruction**

### **† Affirmation of Faith**

*Westminster Confession of Faith, 8.2*

The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

### **† Prayer of Supplication and Intercession**

### **† 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**

### **Giving of Tithes and Offerings**

### **† Doxology, No. 731**

(with hands lifted)

*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*

## **God Communes with Us at His Table**

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### **The Communion**

**Eucharistic Meditation and Fencing of the Table**

**Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ**

**Hymn:** *Behold the Lamb*, verses 1 and 2 (printed in bulletin)

**Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ**

**Hymn:** *Behold the Lamb*, verses 3 and 4 (printed in bulletin)

**Prayer**

## **We Respond to God's Gift**

† **Hymn of Commitment, No. 203**  
**Congregational Response: Amen!**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## **God Commissions Us to Go Into the World**

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† **Charge**  
† **Benediction**

## **We Respond to God's Charge**

† **Threefold Amen, No. 740**

All Scripture readings are from the NEW KING JAMES VERSION © 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Assistive listening devices are available for use during worship services. Please inquire at the sound booth.

# Behold The Lamb

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty  
and Stuart Townend

## VERSE

G2/B A/C# D Em7 D/F# A D/F# G2

1. Be hold the Lamb who bears our sins a - way, slain for us:  
2. The bod - y of our Sav - iour, Je - sus Christ, torn for you:  
3. The blood that cleans - es ev - 'ry stain of sin, shed for you:  
4. And so with thank - ful - ness and faith we rise to re - spond

4 D/A A7sus A7 G2/B A/C# D Em7 D/F# A D/F#

And we re - mem - ber the prom - ise made that all who come in faith find for -  
Eat and re - mem - ber the wounds that heal, the death that brings us life, paid the  
Drink and re - mem - ber He drained death's cup that all may en - ter in to re -  
and to re - mem - ber our call to fol - low in the steps of Christ as His

7 G2 A7sus A7 D D/F# G2 D2/F# Gmaj7 A2 D/F# G2

give - ness at the cross. So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His  
price to make us one. So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His  
ceive the life of God. So, we share in this Bread of Life, and we drink of His  
bod - y here on earth. As we share in His suf - fer - ing, we - proclaim: Christ will

12

D2/F# G2 A D/F# G2 D2/F# Gmaj7 A7sus G2/B Gmaj7 A7

sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of peace a - round the ta - ble of the  
 sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of love a - round the ta - ble of the  
 sac - ri - fice, as a sign of our bonds of grace a - round the ta - ble of the  
 come a - gain! And we'll join in the feast of heav'n a - round the ta - ble of the

# TURNAROUND / OUTRO

D2 D2/G D2 D2/G D2

King.  
 King.  
 King.  
 King.