



COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PCA

The Lord's Day
December 24, 2023

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 24, 2023

Preparation for Worship

Music for Gathering

Announcements

Scripture for Meditation

Romans 8:3-4

For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Communicant Member Reception

God Calls Us Into His Presence

+ 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.**

Psalms 29:2

We Respond to God's Call

+* Hymn of Praise, No. 311

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

Congregational Response: Amen!

+ Prayer of Adoration

God Cleanses Us of Our Sins

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. 498** *Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!*

Congregational Response: Amen!

God Consecrates us By His Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

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 2:21-35**

† **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

"Nunc Dimittis" (Luke's Nativity Hymns, 4)

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

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. 324**
Congregational Response: Amen!

Christ Is Coming!

God Commissions Us to Go Into the World

- † **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.