

The Lord's Service

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025



COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PCA

Post Tenebras Lux

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Thompson Family

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION: Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

SILENT PRAYER

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS PRESENCE

† SALUTATION

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord be with you!

Ruth 2:4

And also with you!

† CALL TO WORSHIP: Romans 15:8-12

For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." And again it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

†* HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 195: "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

† PRAYER OF ADORATION

† Congregation stands, if able | * Seating for latecomers at this time | All Scripture readings are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®). ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Assistive listening devices are available for use during worship services. Please inquire at the sound booth.

GOD CLEANSSES US OF OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION: Psalm 98:1-3

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

CORPORATE CONFESSION: (kneel as able)

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, we excuse our sins, and we fail to love our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world.

[Silent prayer of personal confession] **Amen.**

† **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

† **THE PEACE**

† **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. 193: "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"**

GOD CONSECRATES US BY HIS WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 22:1-19

The grass withers, the flower fades,

But the Word of our God will stand forever!

Isaiah 40:8

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Galatians 4:1-7

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

† **PSALM 98, NO. 16:** “Come, Let Us Sing unto the Lord”

† **GOSPEL READING:** Matthew 1:1-17 (sermon text)

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Praise be to you, O Christ!

PREACHING OF GOD’S WORD:

The Ancestry of Jesus Christ

NOTES:

† **CONFESSION OF FAITH:** Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of His Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;
 who for us and for our salvation
 came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
 and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 He suffered and was buried;
 and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures,
 and ascended into heaven,
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
 and He shall come again, with glory,
 to judge both the living and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together
 is worshiped and glorified;
 who spoke by the prophets;
 and we believe in one holy catholic* and apostolic church;
 we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins;
 and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen. **catholic=universal*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

OFFERTORY

† DOXOLOGY (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

+ SURSUM CORDA

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

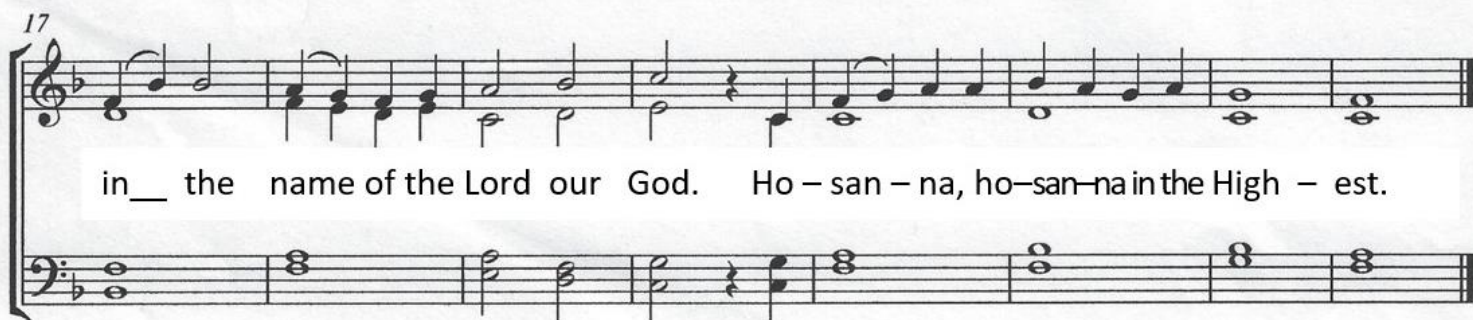
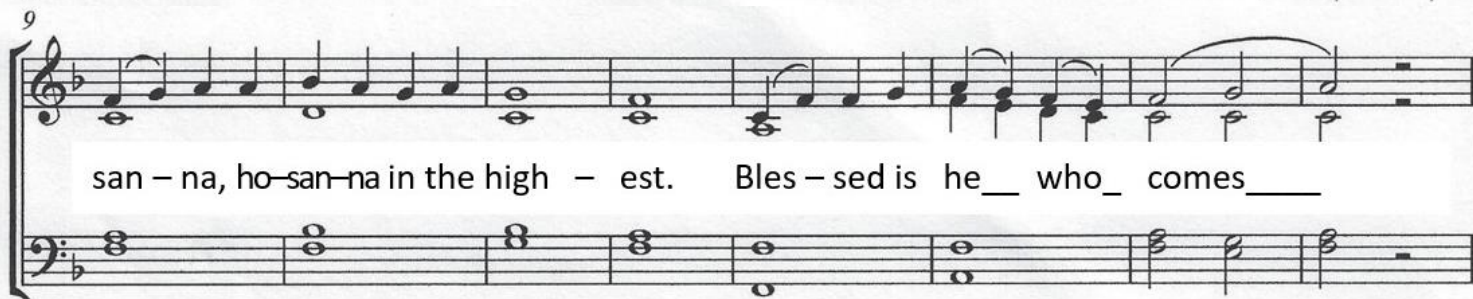
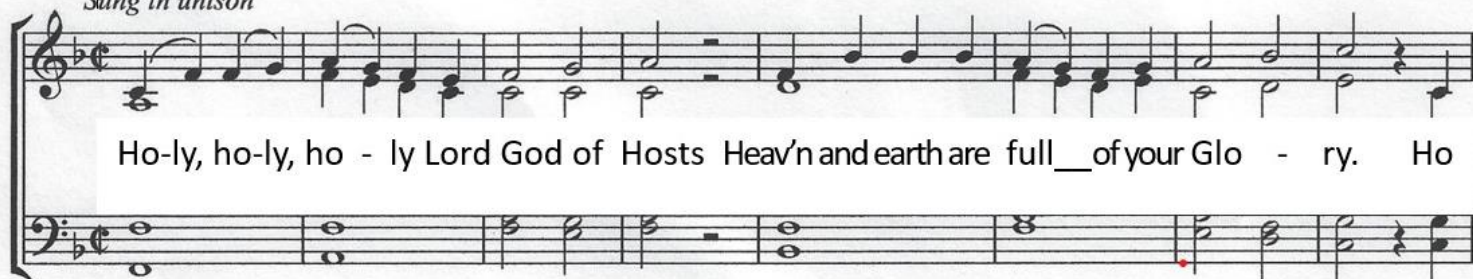
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and good, and a joyful thing, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and arch angels and with all the company of heaven we praise and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing ...

+ SANCTUS

Sung in unison



† **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND 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.**

EUCCHARISTIC MEDITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Distribution of the Bread and Communion in the Body of Christ

Communion Meditation Silence

Distribution of the Cup and Communion in the Blood of Christ

Communion Song, NO. 230: "Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor"
(printed on page 8)

PRAYER OF BLESSING

GOD COMMISSIONS US TO GO INTO THE WORLD

† **HYMN OF PRAISE, NO. 201: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

† **BENEDICTION: Romans 15:13**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

† **THREE-FOLD AMEN**

† **POSTLUDE**

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR

VERSE 1

THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST POOR
THRONES FOR A MANGER DIDST SURRENDER
SAPPHIRE-PAVED COURTS FOR STABLE FLOOR
THOU WHO WAST RICH BEYOND ALL SPLENDOUR
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST POOR

VERSE 2

THOU WHO ART GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST MAN
STOOPING SO LOW BUT SINNERS RAISING
HEAVENWARDS BY THINE ETERNAL PLAN
THOU WHO ART GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING
ALL FOR LOVE'S SAKE BECAMEST MAN

VERSE 3

THOU WHO ART LOVE BEYOND ALL TELLING
SAVIOUR AND KING WE WORSHIP THEE
EMMANUEL WITHIN US DWELLING
MAKE US WHAT THOU WOULDST HAVE US BE
THOU WHO ART LOVE BEYOND ALL TELLING
SAVIOUR AND KING WE WORSHIP THEE

FRANK HOUGHTON, PAUL CAMPBELL

CCLI SONG #7053323

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