

# **TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Order of Worship for December 27, 2020**

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**

GATHERING MUSIC      Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

OPENING HYMN "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him born the King of angels;**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
glory to God, all glory in the highest; [Refrain]**

CHRIST CANDLE LIGHTING

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.  
All things came into being through him.

In him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone,  
was coming into the world.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us,  
and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son,  
full of grace and truth.

## OPENING SENTENCES Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!

**Sing to the Lord and bless God's name; tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.**

Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.

**God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!**

SOLO                      Zion Hears the Watchman's Voices Frank Spencer

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2 -7

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

CAROL "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

**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 men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

**The Peaceful Kingdom**

11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

<sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
<sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.  
<sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
<sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
<sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
<sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

SOLO People Look East

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26- 38

**The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary.  
<sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.  
<sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a

virgin?”<sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.”<sup>36</sup> And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren.<sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God.”<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

SOLO                      Virgin Born, We Bow Before Thee                      Frank Spencer

### LESSON **Matthew 1:18-25 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah**

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah<sup>[a]</sup> took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son;<sup>[b]</sup> and he named him Jesus.

CAROL                      The First Noel

The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay akeeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night. [Refrain]

3 And by the light of that same star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a King was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went. [Refrain]

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
And there it did both stop and stay,  
Right over the place where Jesus lay. [Refrain]

5 Then entered in those wise men three,  
Full reverently upon the knee,  
And offered there, in His presence,  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. [Refrain]

6 Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
That hath made Heaven and earth of naught,  
And with His blood our life hath bought. [Refrain]

## LESSON                      Luke 1:39-56

<sup>39</sup> In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup> where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup> and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup> And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup> For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup> And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
<sup>48</sup> for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.  
<sup>50</sup> His mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
<sup>51</sup> He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.  
<sup>52</sup> He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,  
and lifted up the lowly;  
<sup>53</sup> he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and sent the rich away empty.  
<sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
<sup>55</sup> according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”  
<sup>56</sup> And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned  
to her home.

## SOLO My Soul Cries Out

### LESSON Luke 1:57-80 **The Birth of John the Baptist**

<sup>57</sup> Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.  
<sup>58</sup> Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great  
mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.  
<sup>59</sup> On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were  
going to name him Zechariah after his father. <sup>60</sup> But his mother said,  
“No; he is to be called John.” <sup>61</sup> They said to her, “None of your  
relatives has this name.” <sup>62</sup> Then they began motioning to his father to  
find out what name he wanted to give him. <sup>63</sup> He asked for a writing  
tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And all of them were amazed.  
<sup>64</sup> Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he  
began to speak, praising God. <sup>65</sup> Fear came over all their neighbors,  
and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country

of Judea. <sup>66</sup> All who heard them pondered them and said, “What then will this child become?” For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

### **Zechariah’s Prophecy**

<sup>67</sup> Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup> “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a mighty savior for us  
in the house of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

<sup>71</sup> that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all  
who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,  
and has remembered his holy covenant,

<sup>73</sup> the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,  
to grant us <sup>74</sup> that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,  
might serve him without fear, <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness  
before him all our days.

<sup>76</sup> And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

<sup>77</sup> to give knowledge of salvation to his people  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> By the tender mercy of our God,  
the dawn from on high will break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,  
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

<sup>80</sup> The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the  
wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

SOLO In the Bleak Midwinter

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.



Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars together  
Proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth!

3 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.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin, and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!

## LESSON Luke 2:1-14     **The Birth of Jesus**

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he

was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **The Shepherds and the Angels**

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,<sup>[a]</sup> the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,<sup>[b]</sup> praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”<sup>[c]</sup>

SOLO On Christmas Night, All Angels Sing

CAROL What Child Is This?

1 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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

2 Why lies He in such mean estate,  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.

3 So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

**LESSON**                      **Luke 2:15-20**

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**CAROL**                      **Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

1 Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel.

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.

## SEVENTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11 **The Visit of the Wise Men**

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men<sup>[a]</sup> from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising,<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the wise men<sup>[e]</sup> and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2 Born a King on Bethlehem's plain  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never,  
Over us all to reign. (Refrain)

3 Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, we are raising,  
Worshipping God Most High. (Refrain)

4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

5 Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World"

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Pastor: Rev. Jennifer A. Baer

Music Director: Pamela Carroll

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Many thanks to all our readers this week and to Natalie Baer who was our  
assistant liturgist.