

MORNING WORSHIP

The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

PRELUDE

Creator of the Stars of Night
Four Advent Pieces
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
People, Look East
Prepare the Way, O Zion
Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

*John Barr
Robert Powell*

INTROIT (9:30)

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Michael Praetorius

INTROIT (11:00)

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Gustov Holst

*DOXOLOGY

(The Hymnal, 592)

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: In the coming of Christ, we hear God’s message to us:

“I have exalted one chosen from the people.
I have found my servant David;
with my holy oil I have anointed him;
my hand shall always remain with him.”

People: **We shall cry out to Christ, “You are my God,
the Rock of my salvation!”**

Leader: The fourth candle on the Advent wreath
reminds us that our Savior has almost come.
He will bring light to the darkness and hope to the world.

People: **We are called into God’s house to bear witness to the light.
We are sent from God’s house to take light into the world.**

Leader: A voice cries out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.”

People: **Soon the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.**

*HYMN 41

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Tune: ADESTE FIDELES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Minister: Arise, shine: for your light has come.

People: **O God, we live as if the light had never defeated the darkness in the world or in us.**

Minister: And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

People: **We confess that we ignore the Christ you sent to be among us, to be in us.**

Minister: For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

People: **We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his birth each moment in our waiting hearts.**

Minister: And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

People: **Lord, you came to us in the fullness of time. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to your coming. It's time that we prepare for your coming. Let the earth ring with song. Let the light break forth. Let us all rejoice in the miracle of love. Let Christ come into the fullness of our time. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Minister: Friends, believe the good news.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PSALTER Psalm 80:1–7 (*responsively*) (page 511, O.T.)

***GLORIA PATRI** (The Hymnal, 579)

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:39–56 (page 53, N.T.)

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON A Topsy-Turvy Christmas CALUM I. MACLEOD
“*He has scattered the proud.*” Luke 1:51 (NRSV)

***HYMN 44** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *Tune:* ST. LOUIS

*** APOSTLES' CREED** *(unison)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(unison)*

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE "Amen"

Heinrich Isaak

OFFERING

OFFERTORY CANTATA “In Nativitatem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Canticum”

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

I. Prelude

II. Soprano Duet

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,

III. Song of the Angel

“Do not be afraid; for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

IV. Chorus of Shepherds

Arise now, let us go to Bethlehem. There we shall see the child who is born to us. There we shall offer praise and adore God, now in human form disguised. Why then linger, you drowsy shepherds? Arise now, let us go to Bethlehem.

V. March

VI. Baritone Solo

These humble shepherds did arrive at the place where the child was born. When they came into the house they saw Mary and Joseph and the child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. Kneeling there, they sang of their adoration and praise.

VII. Song of the Shepherds

Hail, tender newborn King! Now all creation sings your praise. In this humble birth you came from heaven to earth.

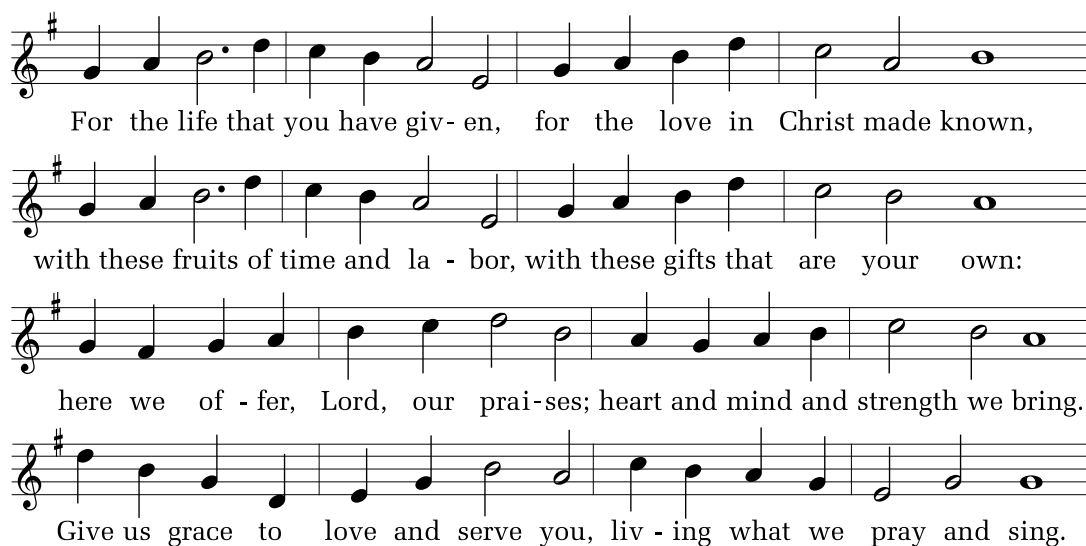
VIII. Baritone Solo

Perfect one, Deity from heaven, salvation for all people.
Eternal grace we gain, freedom from evil's stain,
comfort in woe and pain, now and always.

IX. Soprano Solo and Chorus

Boy of the virgin mild, blessed, and undefiled, heaven's holy child, God's only Son. Praise to thee, holy one, praise to the three in one, praise to thy kingdom come to earth.

*PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERING AND RESPONSE



For the life that you have giv- en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la - bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of - fer, Lord, our prai-ses; heart and mind and strength we bring.
Give us grace to love and serve you, liv - ing what we pray and sing.

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*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

All: **God of mystery and might,
we praise you and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
born of your servant Mary.
In his face we behold your glory,
for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
that we may give as we have received.
Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,
God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ,
your Son, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
now and forever. Amen.**

*HYMN 31

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Tune: MENDELSSOHN

BENEDICTION AND RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Paul Manz

WORSHIP LEADERS

9:30 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Judith L. Watt, Calum I. MacLeod

11:00 a.m. Adam H. Fronczek, Judith L. Watt, Calum I. MacLeod

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

9:30 a.m. Gary, Ruth, and Suzanne Beckman

11:00 a.m. Forrest and Barbara Lammiman

THE MUSIC TODAY

9:30 a.m. The Youth Choir; The Morning Choir;
Carol Carpenter and Carla Janzen, flutists;
Gillian Hollis, Andrea Pokrefke, Melissa Arning,
Beena David, Mark Eldred, and Nikolas Arden, soloists

11:00 a.m. The Children's Choir; The Morning Choir;
Carol Carpenter and Carla Janzen, flutists;
Gillian Hollis, Andrea Pokrefke, Melissa Arning,
Beena David, Mark Eldred, and Nikolas Arden, soloists

John W. W. Sherer, Organist and Director of Music

Thomas E. Gouwens, Associate Organist

Katy Sinclair, Director of Music for Children and Youth

Hsing-Huei Huang, Children's and Youth Choir Accompanist

WORSHIP NOTES

Today's Minute for Mission is presented by Josh Heikkila, a former member of Fourth Church, who is a Presbyterian Church (USA) mission coworker in Ghana and World Mission's regional liaison for West Africa.

This morning's Cantata, *In Nativitatem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Canticum*, was written by the French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier, who was appointed by King Louis XIV to be music director of Sainte-Chapelle in Paris.

PASTORAL STAFF

Calum I. MacLeod, Executive Associate Pastor and Head of Staff

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Adam H. Fronczek, Associate Pastor for Adult Education and Worship

Donna Gray, Minister for Children and Families

Matt Helms, Minister for Children and Families

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Edwin Estevez, Pastoral Resident

John Buchanan, Pastor Emeritus

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