



Winter Grace

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 1, 2019

WINTER GRACE

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.*

MATTHEW 11:28-30

Prelude

Elégie
Chin Mei-Li, *cello*

Gabriel Fauré

Opening Scripture

Philippians 4:6-7; John 14:26; Romans 8:26

Mr. Curles

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

† Call to Worship

Psalm 121

Minister: I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come?

People: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Minister: He will not let your foot be moved; He who keeps you will not slumber.

People: Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Minister: The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

People: The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

Minister: The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life.

People: The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.

Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

† Congregation, please stand as able

† The Hymn No. 221

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

† The Invocation

God of mercy, hear our prayer for ourselves, and for our families and friends who live with the struggles of illness, setbacks, confusion, suffering, and the pain of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow, and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ, who shares our life in joy and sorrow, death and new birth, despair and promise. Amen.

Interlude

Children are dismissed to attend their classes.

Prayers of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

The Prayer of Confession (minister only)

Our Heavenly Father, we come to You this day to confess our weaknesses regarding our relationship with You; places where our faith is under sharp attack: You know that we come to You with heavy hearts that we find hard to unburden. It is particularly in this time of year when the darkness of long nights collides with the brilliance of Christmas lights, that we find it hard to express our losses, our fears, our doubts, and our struggles. We may be confused, sad, lonely, and feeling our losses without remembering that You are always there to support us. Father, forgive any bitterness or blame-shifting. Sometimes we feel cut off from You because we allow our many hurts to engulf us. We lack trust in You. Open us to the understanding that You are the source of all love, and we need not feel so alone in our grief. Grant us wisdom to know that You—most of all—can be trusted, and that You are with us, especially when we are at our absolute worst.

The Corporate Prayer of Confession

Minister: Lord Jesus, You heal the sick; have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, You forgive sinners; have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, You give Yourself to heal us and bring us strength;

People: Lord, have mercy.

The Litany of Healing

- Minister: God the Father, Your will for Your people is life and salvation;
Response: We praise You and thank You, O Lord.
- Minister: God the Son, You came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
Response: We praise You and thank You, O Lord.
- Minister: God the Holy Spirit, You make our bodies the temple of Your presence;
Response: We praise You and thank You, O Lord.
- Minister: Holy Trinity, one God, in You we live and move and have our being;
Response: We praise You and thank You, O Lord.
- Minister: Lord, grant Your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: Grant to all who seek Your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, knowledge of Your will and an awareness of Your presence;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: Grant to the dying, peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of Your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;
Response: Hear us, O Lord of life.
- Minister: You are the Lord who does wonders; with You all things are possible;
Response: You have declared Your power among the peoples.
- Minister: With You, O Lord, is the well of life:
Response: And in Your light we see light.
- Minister: Hear us, O Lord of life:
Response: Heal us, and make us whole.

The Lord's Supper

The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table

The Solo

In the Bleak Midwinter

Text: Christina Rossetti

Music: Holst/Dvorak; arr. Getty

Andria Alexander, *soprano*

The Prayer of Humble Access

The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Meal

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

The Closing Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Lord, we pray for all who have been in attendance this night, that they all may have the inward anointing of the Holy Spirit. And for all those who have prayed – those who have shown mercy – those who have lifted their hands to You in thanksgiving and in supplication – for all present here, O God, we give thanks and ask that You continue with them day by day. Indeed, O Lord, keep us all from all evil, preserve us in all goodness. Bless us so that we may indeed bless others in Your most Holy Name – we ask it in the name of Christ Jesus – Who taught us to pray together as one family, saying: **Our Father, Which art in heaven, hallowed by Thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.**

† The Hymn *We Will Feast in the House of Zion* (see page 8)

† The Benediction of God's Grace and the Congregation's AMEN

Minister: Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever.

People: **AMEN.**

He Will Hold Me Fast



1. When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
2. Those He saves are His de - light, Christ will hold me fast;
3. For my life He bled and died, Christ will hold me fast;



When the tempt - er would pre - vail, He will hold me fast.
Pre - cious in His ho - ly sight, He will hold me fast.
Just - ice has been sat - is - fied; He will hold me fast.



I could nev - er keep my hold through life's fear - ful path;
He'll not let my soul be lost; His Prom - is - es shall last;
Raised with Him to end - less life, He will hold me fast



For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at



fast.
fast.
last!

He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;



For my Sav - ior loves me so, He will hold me fast.



