



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 22, 2019

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*Glory be to You, O Father Almighty, Who has given us Your only-begotten Son,
that we might have life in Him. Glory to the You, O Lord Jesus Christ,
Who became man that we might become sons of God. Glory be to You, O Holy Spirit,
Who does direct and rule our hearts. All glory to the Triune God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.*



The Welcome and Announcements

*The Angels' Candle, lighted as the Festival of the Incarnation nears, reminds us of
the angelic announcement and calls us to focus on Christ's finished work on the cross
and to anticipate His Second Coming. "Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your
flight o'er all the earth; ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King."
~ Luke 2:15-17*

We Enter Into God's Presence

The Prelude

I Saw Three Ships
Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
Ditalis Wagome, french horn

arr. Richard Walters

The Striking of the Hour

The Call to Worship

Matthew 2:11

Mr. Pendley

They saw the Child with His mother Mary, and bowed down and worshipped Him.

† The Hymn No. 218

Angels, from the Realms of Glory
(stanzas 1, 4, 5)

REGENT SQUARE

† The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

(Inside front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

† The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

We Receive Cleansing in Christ

The Call to Confession – Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Silent, Personal Prayer of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon – John 1:14; Mark 10:45

Child of God, hear the good news! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. And He came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

The Pastoral Prayer (8:30)

The Christian Greeting

We Receive God's Word

The Offertory Anthem

In the Bleak Mid-winter

Harold Darke

Chancel Choir; Rosemary Hudson, *soprano*

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wiseman I would do my part,
Yet what I can give Him, give Him my heart.

† The Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 27:1; 89:15; 112:4; Isaiah 9:2; 58:8; 60:1

Pages 583, 629, 647, 729, 785, and 787 in the Pew Bible

† The New Testament Lesson

John 1:1-14

Page 1127 in the Pew Bible

† The Humble Response of Submission

Minister: All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

People: The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.

The Personal Meditation and Personal Preparation of the Heart

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.
Following the 8:30 worship service, your children will be taken to their Sunday school classes.
Following the 11:00 service, please pick up your children from the Children's Chapel (E-100).*

The Sermon

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?, IV

Mr. McRoberts

The True Light

John 1:6-14

FOR FURTHER MEDITATION: *Twenty (More) Names and Titles of Jesus*

Lion of the Tribe of Judah † Author and Perfector of Our Faith † Deliverer †
Beloved Son of God † I Am † Everlasting Father † One Who Sets Free † Indescribable Gift †
Our Hope † Son of Man † Supreme Creator Over All † Advocate † King of the Jews †
Sacrifice for Our Sins † Risen Lord † Holy Servant † Judge † Head of the Church †
Great High Priest † Chief Cornerstone

The Prayer of Application

The Receiving of New Members (11:00)

The Introductions

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith (Martha)

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed
(Inside the front cover of the *Trinity Hymnal*)

The Vows for Membership

1. Do you acknowledge yourselves to be sinners in the sight of God, justly deserving His displeasure, and without hope save in His sovereign mercy?
2. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon Him alone for salvation as He is offered in the Gospel?

3. Do you now resolve and promise, in humble reliance upon the grace of the Holy Spirit, that you will endeavor to live as becomes the followers of Christ?
4. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
5. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The Pastoral Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

We Go in Thanksgiving to Serve

† The Hymn No.224

Go, Tell it on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

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

Minister: Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever.

People: AMEN.

† The Postlude

In Dulci Jubilo

Denis Bédard

Join us tonight at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE CHRISTMAS NARRATIVE



A PENTECOSTAL CHRISTMAS

from Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

Christmas cards, crèches, and storybooks are filled with the characters of the Christmas drama: Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the baby Jesus, angels, shepherds, magi, even Simeon and Anna. But the biblical account of Jesus' birth in the opening chapters of Matthew and Luke refers repeatedly to another participant in the Christmas drama, the Holy Spirit. Though often unnoticed and uncelebrated, it is the Holy Spirit who comes upon Mary, Elizabeth, Zechariah, and Simeon. Similarly, the Old Testament prophecies that foretell the inbreaking of God's kingdom frequently speak of the coming of the Spirit of the Lord, though these texts are strikingly underrepresented in most Advent worship services. The Holy Spirit is the forgotten participant in the Christmas drama.

This omission is seen not only in the Christmas card selection at Hallmark, but also in music for the season. There are dozens of shepherd carols, magi carols, angel carols, and Mary and Joseph carols, but precious few that acknowledge the work of the Spirit. This service features some of the sturdy few that do. Our goal is to challenge our imaginations to sense the dynamic work of Father, Son, and Spirit in the Christmas drama, and to recover our awareness of the work of the Holy Spirit in both the life of Christ and in us.

This perspective makes our understanding of Christmas more dynamic and personal: the same Spirit that came upon Mary, the same Spirit that anointed Jesus to preach good news to the poor and raised Him from the dead, has now been poured into our hearts. The same God who sent the Spirit to answer the waiting people of Israel is at work restoring creation and giving us hope. The Spirit makes us participants in the Christmas drama. (Notice how many musical settings tonight move toward prayers for and celebrations of our reception of the Spirit's work!)

It is true that many orthodox theologians have called the Holy Spirit "the shy member of the Trinity," because the Spirit always points us to Christ. Still, the biblical witness is clear in explicitly identifying the work of the Spirit, in part to reassure that our recognition of Christ, our coming to faith, and our sharing in Christ's anointing is not something dependent on our own striving, but rather is something we receive as a gift.



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

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