

The Lord's Day in Worship

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

DECEMBER 27, 2020

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

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.

— PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7; JOHN 14:26; ROMANS 8:26



We Enter Into God's Presence

The Prelude

Comfort Ye My People from *Messiah*
(Isaiah 40: 1-3)

Handel

A Christmas Pastoral
Audrey McDonald, *Violin*

Charles Callahan

Please sit only in open pews and maintain social distancing. Masks are required for attendees over six years old at all times. Those who are not present physically will be invited to stand when able, and to be seated when necessary. Worship is participative and not passive. God has designed us to be physical creatures and sometimes our hearts and minds will follow our posture. Overflow is available in Trinity Hall.

The Striking of the Hour

† The Call to Worship

Minister: Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the Light of life.”
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.”

All: **The Lord has done this! It is marvelous in our eyes!**

† The Hymn No. 218

Angels from the Realms of Glory
(stanzas 1, 2, and 5)

REGENT SQUARE

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;

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: [*Refrain*]

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One. [*Refrain*]

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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.

† The Prayer Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Which art in heaven, hallowed be 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, for ever. Amen.**

† The Prayer for Mercy

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.

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 Response

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 Assurance of God's Pardon Isaiah 61:1-3 (minister only)

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.

The Affirmation of Our Faith Romans 8:38-39 (in unison)

For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

† The Hymn

He Will Hold Me Fast

(see page 9)

*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 Felder Avenue door
of the Covenant Building.*

We Receive God's Word

The Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7

But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time He brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has Light shone. 3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before You as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. 4 For the yoke of His burden, and the staff for His shoulder, the rod of His oppressor, You have broken as on the day of Midian. 5 For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. 6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

The Sermon

OUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Mr. McRoberts

Isaiah 9:6

—

Sermon outline on page 10.

We Go in Thanksgiving to Serve

The Listing of Personal Lament

The Individual's Silent Prayer for Healing

The Corporate Prayer for Healing (in unison)

Father, mend us and make us better than we could be without You. Take those things that are broken in our lives and visit us with Your healing. And help us to use the strength we receive in Your service, to Your glory!

The Solo

In the Bleak Midwinter (Gloria)
Erin Patterson Joye, *soprano*

arr. Keith & Kristyn Getty

The Casting of the Lament

† The Hymn No. 226

As with Gladness Men of Old
(stanzas 1, 4, and 5)

DIX

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
so, most gracious God, may we evermore be led to Thee.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
and when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide, where no clouds Thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing alleluias to our King.

† 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.

† The Dismissal by Pew

Please allow worshippers in the back of the Sanctuary to exit first to allow for social distancing. Please do not gather or socialize inside the building. Please take all personal items, including your worship bulletin, with you as you leave.

† The Postlude Comfort, Comfort Now Ye My People arr. Burkhardt-Patterson
(from the Genevan Psalter)

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

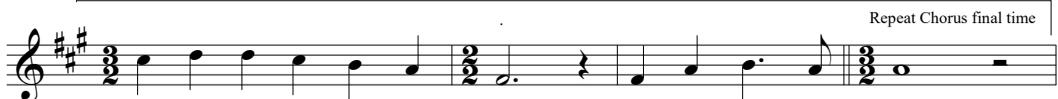


For my love is oft - en cold; He must hold me
Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me
Till our faith is turned to sight, when He comes at

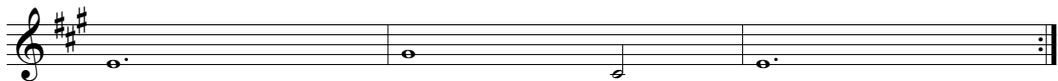


fast.
fast.
last!

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



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



OUR WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

Isaiah 9:6

INTRODUCTION

I. THE WONDERFUL JESUS

A. His Wonderful Birth

B. His Wonderful Life

C. His Wonderful Death

D. His Wonderful Resurrection and Ascension

II. THE WONDERFUL COUNSELOR

CONCLUSION

DEACONS

John Albritton III
Wesley Black
Josh Blades
John Bricken III
Bob Brown
Bo Burks III
Clint Carroll
David Coyne
Nick Freeman
Scott Gilreath
Spears Griffin
Ross Gunnells
Josh Hall III
Ty Howard III
Franklin Johnson
Jake Johnson
Cody Jones
Gerry Lash, Jr.
Braden Lee
Wes Loard, Jr.
Doug Robertson
Davis Smith
Stephen Spooner
David Stanley
Clay Teague
Kyle Trammell
Steve Wales

ELDERS

John Albritton, Jr.
Mark Anderson III
Tommy Bopp
Jason Button
Eddie Carlson, Jr.
Bob Champion
Tom Danielson
L D Fitzpatrick
David Funderburk
Dick Garrett
Rob Godwin
Bart Harmon
Fred Johnson
Chet Moeller II
Ed Patterson
Guice Slawson, Jr.
Scott Speagle
Frank Young III

Thank you for joining us for worship.

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR ATTENDANCE TODAY. Use this form to indicate your presence with us for worship. Fill out the appropriate sections, tear off, and place the form in the offering plate.

GUESTS

Date _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (_____) _____

Names and ages of children at home:

Single Married Widowed

AGE GROUP 12 and under 13-17 18-25 26-35
 36-50 Over 50

First Time Visitor Repeat Visitor
 Visiting with family/friends Regular Attender
 New Resident

Desire a visit
 Interested in knowing more about Trinity
 Interested in New Members Class

MEMBERS AND REGULAR ATTENDERS

Please let us know of:

New Address _____

New Phone (_____) _____

New Email _____

Name _____

CHURCH MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Minister

Claude E. McRoberts III

Executive Minister

Patrick W. Curles

Minister of Pastoral Care

S. Michael Howell

Minister of Discipleship

W. Robert Pendley

Minister to Youth

P. Kurt Cooper

Youth Assistant

Shea Henry

Interim Director of Music/Organist

Ed Patterson

Outreach/Director of Women's Ministries

Becky Canerday

Business Administrator

Mike Hogg

Director of Children's Ministry

Stacy Hamilton

To my Elders...

I have the following prayer and/or praise to God:

To my Deacons...

I know of the following situation where assistance is needed:

NAME _____

TODAY'S DATE _____

TELEPHONE _____

PRAYER OF BELIEF

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but, through You, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank You for paying my debt, bearing my punishment and offering forgiveness. I turn from my sins and receive You as Savior. *Amen.*

(If you are saying this prayer for the first time today, please let one of the ministers know)



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