



# THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

JANUARY 5, 2025

# MORNING WORSHIP

## THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

*Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the Child, and when you have found Him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship Him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the Child with Mary His mother, and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

**MATTHEW 2:7-11 (ESV)**



## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation Rev. Kurt Cooper

The Prelude *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Johann Pachelbel

The Announcements Rev. Michael Howell

The Chiming of the Hour

The Choral Introit *As Bright the Star of Morning Gleams* Philipp Nicolai  
arr. Felix Mendelssohn

As bright the star of morning gleams,  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams of light and consolation.

Thy Word, O Lord,  
Radiance darting, truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!

† Indicates the congregation standing

• Indicates seating for those detained

† The Call to Worship – Isaiah 60:1-3 (*congregation reads bold type*)

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

**and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.**

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.**

And nations shall come to your light,

*ALL:* **and kings to the brightness of your rising.**

•† The Hymn No. 182

*As With Gladness Men of Old*

DIX

† The Prayer of 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 Doxology – No. 650 in *The Hymnal*

OLD HUNDREDTH

## **SEEKING GOD'S FACE**

The Call to Confession – Psalm 32:5

I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

The Silent Prayers of Confession

The Assurance of God's Pardon – Isaiah 57:15

For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite."

The Pastoral Prayer

• † The Hymn No. 176      *Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor*      QUELLE EST

The Offering

*Each one must give as he has decided in his heart,  
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.  
2 Corinthians 9:7*

The Anthem

*O Love*

Elaine Hagenberg

O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I owe,  
that in Thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.  
O Joy that seeks me through the pain,  
I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain,  
and feel the promise is not vain: that morn shall tearless be.

## HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Cooper

† The Reading of God's Word - Mark 1:1-13      pew Bible, page 1063

*If you are visiting today and do not own a copy of the Scriptures,  
please take one from the table in the narthex as our gift.*

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

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

*Isaiah 40:6b, 8*

The Personal Meditation and Preparation of the Heart

*Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church.  
They may be picked up in Room E-100 after the service.*

The Sermon

**HOW GREAT THOU ART**

Rev. Cooper

I. Get Ready

† The Hymn No. 28

*How Great Thou Art*

HOW GREAT THOU ART

## **THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS**

The Introductions

Rev. Cooper

The Vows of Membership

1. Do you acknowledge yourself to be a sinner 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 a follower 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 yourself to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to study its purity and peace?

The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

† The Apostles' Creed – inside cover of *The Hymnal*

† The Benediction of God's Grace

† The Threefold Amen – No. 657 in *The Hymnal*

*Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and His greatness is unsearchable.*

*Psalm 145:3*



**Leading In Worship This Morning**

Rev. Kurt Cooper, *Senior Minister*

Rev. Michael Howell, *Assistant Minister*

Dr. Mark Nabholz, *Director of Music*

Mrs. Shannon Mathai, *Assistant Director of Music and Organist*

---

---

**Introduction to the Gospel According to Mark**

Some years ago one of the world's renowned scholars of the classics, Dr. E. V. Rieu, completed a great translation of Homer into modern English for the Penguin Classics series. He was sixty years old, and he had been an agnostic all his life. The publisher soon approached him again and asked him to translate the Gospels. When Rieu's son heard this he said, "It will be interesting to see what Father will make of the four Gospels. It will be even more interesting to see what the four Gospels make of Father." He did not have to wonder very long. Within a year's time E. V. Rieu, the lifelong agnostic, responded to the Gospels he was translating and became a committed Christian. His story is a marvelous testimony to the transforming power of God's Word. Experiences like this have been repeated time and time again.

Now, whenever I begin a fresh study of one of the Bible's books, I keep this story in mind, and especially the inviting questions: What will it make of me? What will it make of the people I influence? What is this in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark going to make of you and me? May the gospel of our Lord make something out of us. – *R. Kent Hughes*



*To* all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;  
to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory;  
to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;  
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come,  
this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome  
in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.



*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)*

[trinitypca.org](http://trinitypca.org)