

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 26, 2010

8:00, 9:30 AND 11:00 AM

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.

We Prepare Our Hearts

“The LORD is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Habakkuk 2.20

Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

The Rev. Patrick Lafferty

Minister: Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!**

We Praise and Profess Our Faith in God

“My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His holy name forever and ever.” Psalm 145.21

***Hymn No. 208**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

***Prayer of Adoration**

We believe that Jesus Christ,
according to His divine nature,
is the only Son of God—
eternally begotten, not made nor created,
for then He would be a creature:
He is one in essence with the Father; coeternal;
the exact image of the person of the Father
and the “reflection of His glory,”
being in all things like Him.
He is the Son of God
not only from the time He assumed our nature
but from all eternity,
as the following testimonies teach us
when they are taken together.
Moses says that God “created the world”;
and John says that “all things were created by the Word,”
which he calls God.
The apostle says that “God made the world by His Son.”
He also says that “God created all things by Jesus Christ.”
And so it must follow
that He who is called God, the Word, the Son, and Jesus Christ
already existed when all things were created by Him.
Therefore the prophet Michah says
that His origin is “from ancient times, from eternity.”
And the apostle says that He has “neither beginning of days
nor end of life.”
So then, He is the true eternal God, the Almighty,
whom we invoke, worship, and serve.

—Belgic Confession, Art. 10

*Hymn of Praise No. 224 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

Public Confession of Sin

God of love, all year long we pursue power and money, yet You come in weakness. All season long we covet great material gifts, when You alone offer what is lasting. Through the work of this Lord Jesus, who comes among us full of grace and truth, forgive us, heal us, correct us. Then open our lips, that we may sing Your praise with the angels, and remake our lives, that we may witness to Your transforming love. Through Christ, our Lord.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance

When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. Galatians 4:4-5

***Hymns of Praise**

9:30/11:00

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray;
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

W ZLOBIE LEZY

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the Babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the Babe is Lord of all!
Christ the Babe is Lord of all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the Babe was born for you!
Christ the Babe was born for you!

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by:
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

We Pray for Our Congregation, the Church, and the World

“First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people . . . This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2.1, 3-4

Musical Offering

"Nativity Suite"
Jenni Rasberry, Soprano

arr. David Maddux

***The Greeting of Peace**

Minister: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill
toward men! The peace of the Lord be with you always. Luke 2.14

People: **And also with you.**

The Service of Friendship

*If you are seated on the left end of the pew, please take the Service of Friendship pad,
fill out the information and pass it down. When it arrives at the other end
of the pew, pass it back, taking note of those who are seated in your row.*

***The Scripture Reading**

Luke 2.1-21

*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world
should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor
of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also
went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David,
which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to
be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were
there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was
no place for them in the inn.*

*⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch
over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory
of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said
to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for
all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is
Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in
swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel
a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,*

*¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

*¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one
another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which
the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and
Joseph, and the Baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known
the saying that had been told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all who heard
it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these
things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and
praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

*²¹ And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus,
the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.*

— Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please continue on page seven —

*The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Minister: Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Minister: It is right and good and a joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks unto You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God.

People: Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious Name; evermore praising You, and singing:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n_____ and earth_____ are full___ of Your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Blessing

*The Words of Institution

The Communion

Please come forward down the center aisle. Partake of the elements upon receiving them from the elders. Return to your seat with your empty cup via the side aisle.

Please use the following Scripture for private meditation.

Psalm 69.30-33

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving. This will please the Lord more than an ox or a bull with horns and hoofs. When the humble see it they will be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. For the Lord hears the needy and does not despise His own people who are prisoners.

Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them. For God will save Zion and build up the cities of Judah, and people shall dwell there and possess it; the offspring of His servants shall inherit it, and those who love His name shall dwell in it.

— Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please continue here —

***Closing Hymn No. 203** “Hark! the Herald Angels Sing” MENDELSSOHN

***The Benediction**

Minister: The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Postlude

Mr. Howland, *Organ*

**The congregation stands.*

*The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the glory of God!
“Oh how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!”
Luke 1.46-47 NLT*

Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists to extend the transforming presence of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas and to the world.

Personal Prayer and Counsel

“Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor . . . rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.” Romans 12.10, 12, 13

We want so much to come alongside you in brotherly love and hospitality by your allowing us to be in prayer for your salvation or any need you may have. Please join us in the Parlor (north of Fellowship Hall) following the worship service where our Elders and prayer leaders are available and eager to meet with you and pray with you in complete confidence.

SERMON NOTES

Luke 2.1-21

“Through the Shepherd’s Eyes”

Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 26, 2010

Praise

Call to Worship *(everyone together)*

Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!

“Away in a Manger” *(sing or say these words together)*

Please refer to words on page four

Hearing and Learning God’s Word

Scripture Reading: *Luke 2.1-21 (one person read the Scripture aloud)*

Questions for Discussion *(may be answered in one worship time or spread over several times)*

1. Where were you born? a hospital? a birthing center? What do your parents remember about the day you were born?
2. Why is it interesting that God chose for His Son to be born in a place where farm animals lived and ate?
3. When there’s important news in the world, who are usually the first people to be told about it?
4. Why is it interesting that God chose to announce the birth of His Son to shepherds? (instead of kings and leaders?)
5. What is peace? What kind of peace were the angels talking about to the shepherds?
6. How is Jesus bringing peace to the world?

Questions for older children

1. Why does Luke mention King David twice in this passage? What promises did God make to David that were now coming true in Jesus?
2. What does it mean to ponder something? Why did Mary ponder what she’d been told?
3. Why would it be helpful for you to ponder regularly who Jesus is and what He’s done for you?

Scripture Memory for December *(memorize this verse of Scripture this month)*

John 1.14:

And 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.

Prayer

Prayer *(saying together)*

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.

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” *(sing or say these words together)*

Please refer to words on page four