

**PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

December 11, 2016

*Third Sunday of Advent*

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DECEMBER 11, 2016  
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 am

*Third Sunday of Advent*

---

---

## Prelude

8:00 "What Child Is This?" *arr. Paul Manz*  
J. Marty Cope, *organ*

9:30/11:00 "What Child Is This?" *GREENSLEEVES*  
Brian Piper, *piano*

## Call to Worship

The Rev. Ron Williams 8:00  
The Rev. Mark Davis 9:30/11:00

Minister: Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy.

**People: For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.** Isaiah 35:5-6

Minister: For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder,

**People: And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Isaiah 9:6

\*Carol No. 207 "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" *IN DULCI JUBILO*

## \*Prayer of Adoration

## \*Profession of Faith

The Rev. Bill Lamberth 8:00  
The Rev. Brent Baker 9:30  
The Rev. Chad Scruggs 11:00

**The true Light, which gives light to everyone,  
was coming into the world.  
He was in the world,  
and the world was made through Him,  
yet the world did not know Him.  
He came to His own,  
and His own people did not receive Him.  
But to all who did receive Him,  
who believed in His name,  
He gave the right to become children of God,  
who were born,  
not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh,  
nor of the will of man,  
but of God.**

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.

John 1.9-14

\*Carol No. 200

“It Came upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL

### Public Confession of Sin

O God, in the beginning You spoke,  
and creation was born, the object of Your loving care.  
In the fullness of time You spoke,  
and the Word became flesh, Jesus, gift of Your love.  
We wonder at the miracle of creation;  
we stand in awe before the mystery of the incarnation.  
Forgive us earthbound creatures, feeble in faith,  
empty of hope, lacking in love.  
We wait upon You with ready hearts, O God,  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### Private Confession

### Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

John 1.4-5

\*Carol No. 201

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

9:30/11:00

### Prayer of Intercession/Offertory Prayer

Mr. Lamberth 8:00

Mr. Baker 9:30

Mr. Scruggs 11:00

### Musical Offering

8:00

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”  
Stephen Nielson, *piano*

PICARDY  
*arr. Nielson*

9:30/11:00

“Oh Light”  
Brienne Coleston, *solo* • Brian Piper, *piano*

Lisa Gungor

## \*The Greeting of Peace

Minister: For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light.

Psalm 36:9

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

Genesis 15

Mr. Williams 8:00

Alison and Brent Baker 9:30

Jada and Chad Scruggs 11:00

*After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."*

<sup>2</sup> *But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will You give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"*

<sup>3</sup> *And Abram said, "Behold, You have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir."*

<sup>4</sup> *And behold, the word of the LORD came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir."*

<sup>5</sup> *And He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then He said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

<sup>6</sup> *And he believed the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.*

<sup>7</sup> *And He said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you out from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to possess."*

<sup>8</sup> *But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"*

<sup>9</sup> *He said to him, "Bring Me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon."*

<sup>10</sup> *And he brought Him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half.*

<sup>11</sup> *And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

<sup>12</sup> *As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years.*

<sup>14</sup> *But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.*

<sup>15</sup> *As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age.*

<sup>16</sup> *And they shall come back here in the fourth generation, for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

<sup>17</sup> *When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.*

<sup>18</sup> *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your offspring I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates,*

<sup>19</sup> *the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites,*

<sup>20</sup> *the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim,*

<sup>21</sup> *the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites and the Jebusites."*

Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please  
continue at the closing carol on page six.

**\*The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

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 8:00**

**\*The Words of Institution 8:00**

**The Communion 8:00**

*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.*

\*The Benediction

Minister: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD  
has risen upon you. Isaiah 60.1

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

Postlude

8:00 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH  
Mr. Nielson, *piano* arr. Nielson

9:30/11:00 "Joy to the World" arr. Lasky/Fox  
J. Marty Cope, *organ*

\*The congregation stands.

*The flowers in our worship service this morning are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Barbara and Ben Cervin, given in love by their children, Carole Anne and Chris Axley, Margaret Cervin, Kristyn and William Cervin.*

*The flowers in the narthex are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the birthday of Christian Liston Reid from your Mom.*

**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.**

### **Senior Pastor**

The Rev. Mark Davis

### **Session/Associate Pastors**

Joe Abbate	John Hawkins	Rob Sayles
Dr. Pete Deison	Eric Horan	The Rev. Chad Scruggs
Don Dillahunty	Houston Hunt	Gil Sheehan
Pete Flowers	Ed Jarrett	Jay Turner
Mark Fulmer	Bob McCamey	Jeff Wilson
The Rev. Paul Goebel	Gregory Morris	
Pat Hamner	Boots Nowlin	

### **Assistant Pastors**

The Rev. Ron Williams	The Rev. Tommy Overton
The Rev. Bill Lamberth	The Rev. Brent Baker
Dr. Julian Russell	The Rev. Robby Higginbottom
Dr. Jeff White	The Rev. Matthew Fray

### **Executive Director**

Jeff Barber

### **Shepherding Elders**

*(Elders not currently on the Session but  
active in ministry at Park Cities Presbyterian Church)*

Tommy Bain	Paul Flowers	David Newman
Alan Balsler	Will Francis	Stephen Nielson
John Bateman	David Franklin	Rick Owens
Brad Bradley	David Gowdey	Bobby Payne
Frank Bullock	Harry Hargrave	Kirk Pogoloff
David Burgher	John Harper	Irv Queal
Rick Bush	Bob Heinonen	Bob Rasberry
Kit Case	David Horn	Mike Skinner
George Chapman	Tim Jeffress	Nelson Somerville
Jim Chenoweth	Kent Johnson	Dick Steele
Doug Chesnut	Russell Johnson	Dan Stewart
Grady Crosland	Bryan Keyes	Tracy Taylor
Marvin Culbertson	Don King	Bill Thomas
Charles Debter	Louie Little	Steve Vanderhill
Jack Denman	Bill Mabus	Ron Wideman
John Denman	Jim Madden	Steve Williamson
Curt Dobbs	Mike McMahan	Tim Wilson
Bert Ehrmann	Robert Mighell	Arthur Wood
Bill Farrell	Pat Moore	Randy Wood

# SERMON NOTES

Genesis 15

INTO HIS MARVELOUS LIGHT  
"A Covenant, Carcasses, and Christmas"

## Order of Worship for the Home – The Week of December 11, 2016

### Praise

#### **Call to Worship** *(everyone together)*

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.

Isaiah 9.6

#### **“Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come”** *(read or sing these words together)*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing,  
And heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

### Hearing and Learning God’s Word

#### **Scripture Reading:** Genesis 15 *(one person read the Scripture aloud)*

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

1. What is a covenant?
2. What promise did God make to Abram?
3. What did Abram do with the animals?
4. How did God pass through the animal pieces?
5. Why did God pass through the animal pieces?
6. How does Christmas reveal God’s Covenant?

#### **Questions for older children**

1. Where do you see the images of light and darkness in this passage?
2. What is significant about Abram not passing through the carcasses?
3. How does this story impact the Christmas story?

#### **Scripture Memory for December:** *(memorize these verses of Scripture this month)*

Isaiah 9.2, 6

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. <sup>6</sup>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.

### 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.