

*This little babe, so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;
All hell doth at his presence quake.
Though he himself for cold do shake,
For in this weak unarmèd wise
The gates of hell he will surprise.*

*With tears he fights and wins the field;
His naked breast stands for a shield;
His battering shot are babish cries,
His arrows looks of weeping eyes,
His martial ensigns cold and need,
And feeble flesh his warrior's steed.*

*His camp is pitchèd in a stall,
His bulwark but a broken wall,
The crib his trench, hay stalks his stakes,
Of shepherds he his muster makes;
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,
The angels' trumps alarum sound.*

*My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;
Stick to the tents that he hath pight;
Within his crib is surest ward,
This little babe will be thy guard.
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,
Then flit not from this heavenly boy.*

— Robert Southwell (1561–1595)



ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

December 28, 2025
8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Robert Rucker

Prelude

8:00

“Still, Still, Still”
Stephen Nielson, *piano*

STILL STILL STILL
arr. Nielson

9:30/11:00

Variations on “In Dulci Jubilo”
Dr. Nathan Davy, *organ*

Denis Bédard

***Call to Worship**

Minister: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

People: **For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.**

Minister: And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

People: **And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”**

Luke 2.10-14 (KJV)

***Carol**

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

REGENT SQUARE

Hymn No. 218 in the Trinity Hymnal

Melody 1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
Harmony 2. Shep-herds in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
Melody 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions
Harmony 4. Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in
Melody 5. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,
all the earth; ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,
Spir - it, Son; ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
ye have seen His na - tal star: Come and wor - ship,
in His tem - ple shall ap - pear:
to th'e - ter - nal Three in One:
come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

***Prayer of Adoration**

***Profession of Faith**

The Rev. Dr. Pete Deison

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through Him,
and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
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.
The true light,
which gives light to everyone,
was coming into the world.
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 1.1-5, 9, 14

*Carol "Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" *QUELLE EST CETTE*
Hymn No. 230 in the Trinity Hymnal



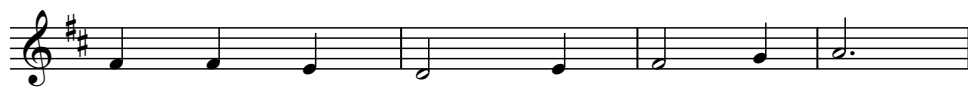
1. Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
2. Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
3. Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor;
all for love's sake be - cam - est man;
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.



thrones for a man - ger didst sur - ren - der,
stoop - ing so low, but sin - ners rais - ing,
Em - man - u - el, with - in us dwell - ing,



sap - phire - paved courts for sta - ble floor.
heav'n - ward by Thine e - ter - nal plan.
make us what Thou wouldst have us be.



Thou who wast rich be - yond all splen - dor,
Thou who art God be - yond all prais - ing,
Thou who art love be - yond all tell - ing,



all for love's sake be - cam - est poor.
all for love's sake be - cam - est man.
Sav - ior and King, we wor - ship Thee.

Lord Christ,

we confess our willingness to be loved
but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept Your forgiving love
but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp Your offer of redeeming love
but also our resistance to follow You without question.

In this Advent time, forgive us our failure
to respond as we should.

Come to us anew, and by Your grace, assist us to receive You
with joy, as the shepherds;
with gratitude, as Simeon;
with obedience, as Mary;
with love, as You have loved us.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Private Confession

Words of Assurance and Pardon of the Gospel

But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved!

Ephesians 2:4-5

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Carol

“Away in a Manger”

CRADLE SONG

9:30/11:00



A - way in a — man - ger, no crib for a bed, the —
The cat - tle are — low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but
Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I — ask Thee to stay close



lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down His sweet head; The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing He makes; I
by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless



stars in the — bright sky looked down where He lay, the
love Thee, Lord Je - sus! Look — down from the sky, and
all the dear chil - dren in — Thy ten - der care, and



lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my cra - dle till — morn - ing is night.
fit us for heav - en, to — live with Thee there.

In addition to giving via passed offering plates, you are also welcome to give online at pcpc.org/give or text “give” to 214-833-7724.

Musical Offering

8:00

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”
Mr. Nielson, *piano*

HENDON
arr. Nielson

9:30/11:00

“My Lord Has Come”
Caroline Nielson, *vocalist* • Stephen Nielson, *piano*

Will Todd

***A Christmas Doxology**

GLORIA

All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son;
Evermore your voices raising to th’eternal Three in One.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

*Worship Explorers will not meet today,
and we encourage families to worship together.*

Zest Quests are available so your children can follow along with the sermon.

***The Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 1.12-17**

*I thank Him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful, appointing me to His service,
¹³ though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,
¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.
¹⁵ The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.
¹⁶ But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display His perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in Him for eternal life.
¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Sermon

“The Purpose of the Incarnation”

Mr. Rucker

Worshippers at 9:30 and 11:00, please continue at the closing hymn.

***The Great Thanksgiving 8:00**

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Minister: Lift up your hearts!

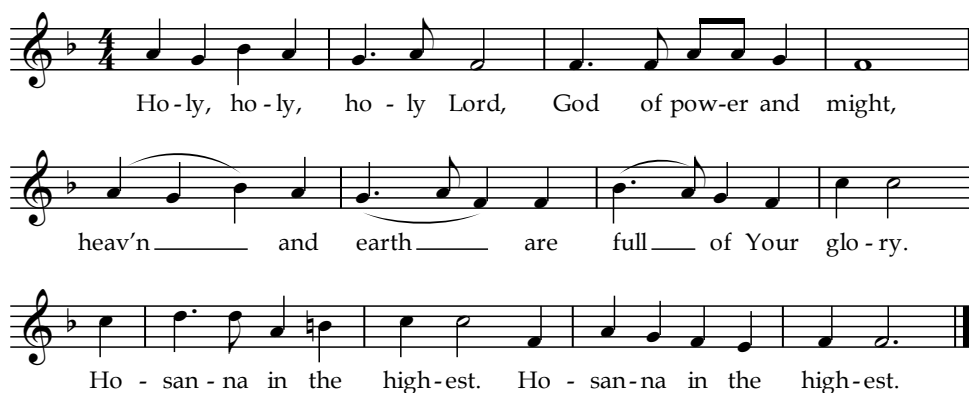
People: We lift them up to the Lord!

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:



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

Communion 8:00

Please remain seated.

You will be served by your elders, and we will all partake together when so instructed by the pastor.

(The bread being served is gluten free.)

GOD REST YE MERRY

1. God	rest	ye	mer -	ry,	gen -	tle -	men,	Let	noth -	ing
2. From	God	our	heav'n	- ly	Fa -	ther	A	bles -	ed	
3. "Fear	not,	then,"	said	the	an -	gel,	"Let	noth -	ing	
4. Now	to	the	Lord	sing	prais -	es,	All	you	with -	

you dis - may, Re - mem - ber Christ our Sav - ior Was
an - gel came; And un - to cer - tain shep - herds Brought
you af - fright, This day is born a Sav - ior Of
in this place, And with true love and broth - er - hood Each

born on Christ - mas day; To save us all from
 ti - dings of the same; How that in Beth - le -
 a pure Vir - gin bright, To free all those who
 oth - er now em - brace; This ho - ly tide of

Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.
hem was born The Son of God by name.
trust in Him From Sa - tan's pow'r and might."
Christ - mas All oth - ers doth de - face.

O__ ti - dings of com - fort and joy, Com-fort and

joy; O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

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.

ANTIOCH
arr. Nielson

Garth Edmundson

- 9 -



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

SERMON NOTES

1 Timothy 1.12-17
“The Purpose of the Incarnation”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The following questions help us engage with the sermon, music, and liturgy in this morning's worship service, and may be useful during personal devotions, group studies, and family worship.

1. How does this passage challenge the idea that God's calling is based on our prior faithfulness rather than His sovereign grace?
2. Paul describes himself as a former blasphemer and persecutor who nevertheless received mercy. How does this reflect God's covenant faithfulness to save His people despite their sin and rebellion?
3. How does the phrase "I had acted ignorantly in unbelief" help us understand the relationship between human responsibility and God's sovereign mercy in salvation?
4. Describe how the words "with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" highlight union with Christ as the source of both justification and sanctification?
5. Paul calls the gospel a "trustworthy saying" that Christ came to save sinners. Why is it important, to affirm that salvation is God's initiative rather than human cooperation?
6. How does one's salvation serve as an example for those who will believe later, and how does this reinforce the continuity of God's saving purposes throughout redemptive history?
7. How does the description of one who is "foremost" of sinners receiving God's mercy shape our assurance when we wrestle with guilt, doubt, or ongoing sin within the covenant community?
8. Why does a proper, heart-experienced understanding of "the King of the ages" and sovereign grace naturally lead to worship, and how can this passage shape our prayers and worship?

Highlights

DECEMBER 28, 2025

What's Next?

We have friendly faces waiting to help you connect to Christ and one another at PCPC just as you exit the front of the Sanctuary. Look for the Connect banner on your way to the Grand Hall. We would also love to help you abide in and extend Christ. You can find out more at the Information Center in the Grand Hall. Download the free PCPC mobile app to explore more.

Connection Card

Thanks for joining us today! If you are new or looking to connect with others in our church family, please scan the QR code and fill out our Connection Card, so we can know you were here and help you connect.



pcpc.org/connect

New Members Class

Sundays, January 11–March 1

9:30 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Is the Lord calling you to be a member of PCPC? This class gives you the opportunity to explore PCPC's beliefs and mission.

Registration is open.

pcpc.org/membership

Adkins & Nielson Concerts

Sunday, January 18

5:30 & 7:30 P.M. | CAMBRIDGE HALL (LEVEL TWO)

DSO principal cellist Christopher Adkins and Steinway Artist Stephen Nielson are joined by operatic baritone Donnie Ray Albert to present an exquisite evening of chamber music. No tickets are required.

pcpcconcerts.org

WinterGrace

Saturday–Sunday, Jan. 31–Feb. 1

Save the dates for PCPC's annual on-campus retreat themed "God's Grace in Our Fellowship". All ages will participate in two days of fellowship, worship, and teaching with guest speaker David Gibson and musician Sandra McCracken.

pcpc.org/wintergrace

Spring Kickoff

Connect with one another at PCPC beginning January 12-16. Pick up a Spring Guide in the Grand Hall. Register online.

- Care & Counseling Groups
- Children's Choirs
- God's Heart for the World
- Men, Women, & Couple's Bible Studies
- Middle & High School Small Groups
- Wednesday Word & Table and Midweek Dinner

pcpc.org/events

Year-End Giving

In order to comply with IRS regulations, Wednesday, Dec. 31, is the deadline for donations to be receipted for 2025. Mailed checks must be postmarked by Dec. 31. Church offices will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. Donations can be hand-delivered to the secure drop box at the south entrance. For stock donation instructions, contact cheli.conejo@pcpc.org. Thank you for your generous stewardship of all God has given.

pcpc.org/give

Special Events

Spiritual Life of a Man (SLAM)

SATURDAY, JAN. 3 | 8:00 A.M.

The Gathering (High School)

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 7 | 7:15 P.M.

60+ Community Friday Fellowship

FRIDAY, JAN. 9 | 11:30 A.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Project Workday:

Center of Hope

SATURDAY, JAN. 10 | 10:00 A.M.

pcpc.org/calendar



PARK CITIES

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Dallas, Texas 75219

pcpc.org

Social: [@parkcitiespca](https://www.instagram.com/parkcitiespca)

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24/7 Prayer Line: 214-224-2680

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Sermon Archives: pcpc.org/sermons

Deep Light Podcast: pcpc.org/deeplight

Every Thought Captive: etcdevo.org

GIVE ONLINE

Scan QR code for pcpc.org/give/, and read PCPC's biblical Principles of Stewardship.



Download the PCPC App with iOS or Android device to give online (including setting up recurring gifts).

GENERAL FUND

2025/2026 Operating Budget \$17,500,000

Jul 1, 2025–Dec 14, 2025 Budget \$7,800,394

Jul 1, 2025–Dec 14, 2025 Giving \$8,748,432

Budget Variance \$948,038