

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 7, 2022

(* Please rise in body or spirit.)

As we come together for worship, you are invited to reflect on your week, to read through today's Scripture texts, or to pray, perhaps using the words of this prayer:

*Immanuel, God-with-us:
with eyes open, hearts softened, minds listening, and spirits full,
we rejoice that every day you interrupt what we have in mind
in order to bring into being more than we dare imagine.
May your light shine! Amen.*

WELCOME AND CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION

+ + +

— GOD GATHERS US IN GOD'S PRESENCE —

PRELUDE

Glad Tidings

James Mansfield

CALL TO WORSHIP ~ taken from Titus 3:4-7

Pastor: In Christ Jesus, the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior have been revealed.

People: *God has rescued us, not because we earned such compassion through any good deeds that we have done, but because God reached out in faithfulness and love and gave us a new beginning by the Spirit.*

Pastor: God lavishly poured the Holy Spirit out on us through Christ our Lord so that, through God's grace, we would be accepted into God's covenant family and appointed to be God's own heirs.

People: *By God's grace, we are the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice and worship God!*

* HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful (#133)

Adeste Fideles

- O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!*
Refrain: *O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*
- True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Very God, begotten, not created!* **Refrain**
- Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!* **Refrain**
- Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!* **Refrain**

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Pastor: Holy God of Love, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

People: *We go about our lives as if Christmas is an event to be celebrated, but not lived.*

Pastor: In Jesus, you announced your good news of great joy for all people, but we do not heed it.

People: *We hear the pleas of families who need safe, warm places to live, but we prefer the sound of the carols. We see those who are in need of care and of food, but we look instead to the decorations and trappings of our own lives. We hear the call of the angels to come and worship the newborn King, but we give our true loyalty and devotion to the idols of our time: financial security and fame, comfort and pleasure.*

(Moment of silence for personal confession)

Pastor: Forgive us, we pray.

People: *Forgive us and free us for joyful obedience to you. Remove the barriers to faithfulness that we ourselves construct, and empower us by your Spirit to be a people who do the real, gritty, holy, grace-filled, loving work of Christmas every day. We pray in the name of the one whose birth we celebrate with our very lives – our Lord Jesus. Amen.*

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news... ... let all the people say:

People: *Thanks be to God!*

* Response

Angels from the Realms of Glory (v 4)

Regent Square

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship; worship Christ, the newborn King.*

* THE PEACE

Pastor: Since we have been forgiven in Christ... ... The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us greet one another with signs of forgiveness and of peace.

*(You are invited to share with one another words and signs
of God's welcome, peace, and forgiveness.)*

— GOD SPEAKS GOD'S WORD —

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FROM THE GREEK SCRIPTURES ~ John 12:44-47

FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES ~ Isaiah 42:5-10a

FROM THE GREEK SCRIPTURES ~ Revelation 22:20

SERMON

Summer Sermon Series: Our Favorite Hymns ~ A Stable Lamp is Lighted
The Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Lowmaster

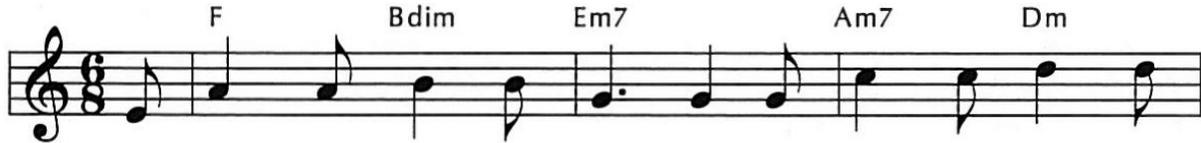
— GOD MOVES US TO RESPOND TO THE WORD —

* HYMN

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

Andujar

(Choir will sing verse 1; congregation will join singing verses 2-4.)



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed whose glow shall wake the
 2 This child through Da - vid's cit - y shall ride in tri - umph
 3 Yet he shall be for - sak - en, and yield - ed up to
 4 But now, as at the end - ing, the low is lift - ed



sky; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - ery stone shall
 by; the palm shall strew its branch - es, and ev - ery stone shall
 die; the sky shall groan and dark - en, and ev - ery stone shall
 high; the stars shall bend their voic - es, and ev - ery stone shall



cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, and
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, though
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, for
 cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry, in



straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall har - bor
 heav - y, dull, and dumb, and lie with - in the
 hearts made hard by sin: God's blood up - on the
 prais - es of the child by whose de - scent a -



heav - en, a stall be - come a shrine.
 road - way to pave his king - dom come.
 spear - head, God's love re - fused a - gain.
 mong us the worlds are rec - on - ciled.

THE OFFERING

Call for the Offering

Offertory

Meditation

* Response

In the Bleak Midwinter (v. 4)

Cranham

*What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Celebration of The Lord's Supper

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Pastor: People of God... ... The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: People of God, come near: the Lord calls to us and yearns to love & nourish us.

People: *We hear God calling, and we open our hearts to hear and receive the Lord.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give you thanks, O God, for making your love evident since the very beginning of time, when you spoke the word that replaced the darkness of chaos with life-giving light:

People: *a light that has nurtured generations of people, as well as plants and creatures, great and small;
a light that also revealed the fear and powerlessness caused by corrupt and evil actions.*

Pastor: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the church through the ages and with the heavenly choir:

Response

Joy to the World (vv. 1, 2)

Antioch

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King!
Let ev'ry 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.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let us our songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

Pastor: And so you spoke the Word that would once and for all dispel the darkness of chaotic lives. Through your love for the world, the Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. As the travelers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we also are overwhelmed in discovering the depth of his love for us.

People: *Jesus showed just how beloved we – your children – are to you, by healing our brokenness and by giving himself for us.*

Response

Joy to the World (vv. 3, 4)

Antioch

*No more let sins and sorrows grow nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Pastor: Send the power of your Holy Spirit now upon these gifts of bread and cup, O God, that we may experience the presence of the Word-made-flesh, Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit in us that we may be one body with him: living out his ministry in the world today and every day, giving ourselves to others, especially those in need and those of particular concern to us today...

...Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, we praise you now and forever, O God of glory, as together we pray,

People: *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.*

WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~ BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND POURING OF THE CUP

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Prince of Peace, by your Spirit you have transformed these ordinary objects – this bread and this cup – into the means by which your grace is poured into us. Now, we pray, transform us: shape our hearts and re-form your world with the peace that you promise. Let these gifts of your love overflow through us into your world so that all that we say and all that we do radiates with the Light of your sure hope and your deep joy. Amen.

— SENDING —

* HYMN

In Bethlehem a Babe Was Born

Discovery

In Beth - le - hem a Babe was born With love e - nough for
The Roy - al - ty and shep - herds came To wor - ship from a -
mys - ter - y of Beth - le - hem Was long a go, — they

all — While King - doms slept, the Lord came down To
far, — Guid - ed through the the long cold night By
say, — But, mir - a - cle of mir - a - cles, The

grace a man - ger stall. And with a Glo - rious
one per - sis - tent star. As each be - held the
Ba - by lives — to - day In each new heart that

light Son, An - gels a - peared that night.
hears Strang - ers be - came one, — Sing - ing,
Love com - ing - came through the years,



"Come, come, Christ is born! Come, come, world for - lorn. The



Child of peace and sac - ri - fice is wait - ing to ___ be found." _

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G

Henry Kihlken

Silent Prayer: As the postlude is played, you are invited silently to reflect on God's word to you and to pray, perhaps using the words of this prayer by John van de Laar:

*It may seem naive, in a world of grief, to choose to live in joy;
It may seem foolish, in a world that seeks power through loud, angry shouting,
to sing and dance to a different tune;
It may seem cruel, in a world of suffering and injustice,
to speak of light and celebration;
But you have come, Jesus, to bring joy into our grief,
light into our darkness, singing into our mourning;
And it is an act of healing and proclamation
to believe and embrace the joy you offer.
Joy to us! Joy to the world! You have come! Hallelujah! Amen.*

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Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church!

*We rejoice that we all have been drawn here by the Holy Spirit
to praise God and to worship our living Lord Jesus Christ.*

TODAY IN OUR CHURCH

Pastor	The Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Lowmaster
Director of Music	Andrew Van Varick

The flowers in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Robin Wallace by Beth Wallace and Lynne Wallace-Lee.

CONTACTING THE CHURCH AND THE PASTOR

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Worshiping with thanks +++ *Serving with love*