

Historic
Independent Presbyterian Church
of Savannah



Painted by Gerard Van Honthorst, 1622

Christmas Eve Service
December 24, AD 2021

207 Bull Street • Savannah, Georgia 31401 • 912/236-3346 • www.ipcsav.org

THE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

SANCTUARY ~ FIVE THIRTY O'CLOCK

The Silent Prayer Upon Entering the Sanctuary

The Prelude - Improvisation on Christmas Themes

The Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, who has given us Your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon Him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made Your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by Your Holy Spirit, which we beseech You to send forth more and more into our hearts, as a testimony of Your fatherly love to us, and to fill us with fervent love towards You; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

+ The Welcome and Announcements

+* The Hymn - #208 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Adeste Fideles

*** The Invocation and Prayer of Praise**

*** The Nicene Creed**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds; God of God; Light of Light; Very God of Very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven; And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven; And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And He shall come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; The Lord and Giver of Life; Who proceeds from the Father and the Son; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the resurrection of the dead; And the life of the world to come. Amen.

*** The Christmas Gloria Patri** (*Hymnal* #218) Regent Square

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son; evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King. Amen.

The Christmas Prayer

The Reading of Scripture - Luke 2:1-20 (pew Bible p.857)

*** The Hymn** - #204 "Away in a Manger"

Mueller

*** The Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Collection

The Anthem - "All My Heart This Night Rejoices" arr. David Cherwien

The Sanctuary Choir

Text: (Paul Gerhardt, tr. Catherine Winkworth)

All my heart this night rejoices
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;
"Christ is born," their choirs are singing,
Till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

Jesus' voice from lowly manger
Softly thus calls to us: "You are safe from danger;
Come and see; from all that grieves you
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder;
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder;
Love Him who with love is yearning;
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.

You, dear Lord, I'll ever cherish;
Though my breath fail in death, I will never perish:
By your side in light eternal
I shall be endlessly filled with joy supernal.

Come, then, banish all your sadness!
One and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness.
We shall live with God forever
There on high in that joy which will vanish never.

* **The Psalter** - Psalm 98:4-9 (*Psalter*, Page 83)

Desert

The Sermon

Mr. Terry Johnson

"GLORY TO GOD AND PEACE ON EARTH"

* **The Benediction**

* **The Hymn** - #195 "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"

Antioch

Recessional begins during the first stanza.

Recessional to Front Lawn for Caroling

After the ministers recess, carolers may exit the building and proceed to the front grass area for the lighting of the candles.

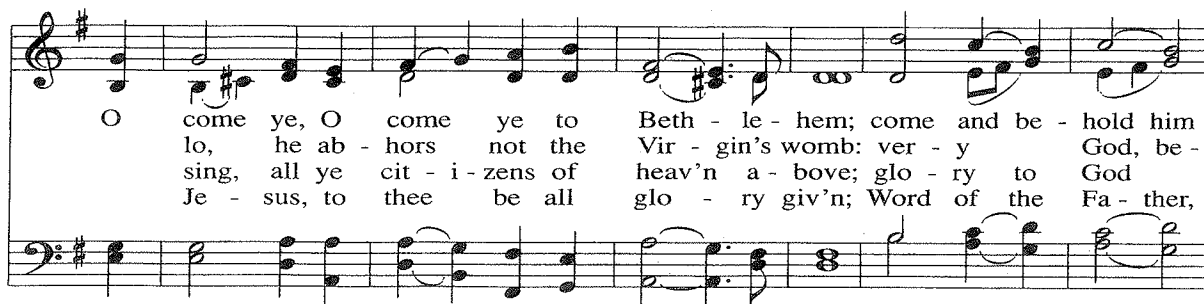
O Come, All Ye Faithful

208

Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about. Luke 2:15



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. God of God, Light of Light;
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing:



O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him
 lo, he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb: ver - y God, be -
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther,

REFRAIN



born the King of an - gels;
 got - ten, not cre - a - ted; O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let
 in the high - est;
 late in flesh ap - pear - ing;



us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Latin hymn
 Attr. to John Francis Wade, 1751
 Tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1841; alt.

ADESTE FIDELES 6.6.10.5.6.ref.
 John Francis Wade's *Cantus Diversi*, 1751

Away in a Manger

204

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Unison F B \flat F Γ

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

F

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
 Je - sus no cry - ing he makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear chil - dren in

B \flat F Γ C 7 F B \flat C 7 F Γ

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky, and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

Psalm 98:4-9

1. ⁴O all the earth, sing to the LORD And
 2. ⁵With harp make mu - sic to the LORD; With
 3. ⁷Let seas in all their vast - ness roar, The
 4. ⁹Be - cause He comes, He sure - ly comes The

make a joy - ful sound, And make a joy - ful
 harp a psalm O sing! With harp a psalm O
 world, its liv - ing horde, The world, its liv - ing
 judge of earth to be! The judge of earth to

sound. Lift up your voice a - loud to Him;
 sing! ⁶With horn and trum - pet raise a shout
 horde. ⁸Let ri - vers clap, let moun - tains sing
 be! With jus - tice he will judge the world

Sing psalms! Let joy re - sound!
 Be - fore the LORD, the King,
 Their joy be - fore the LORD!
 All men with e - qui - ty,

Sing psalms! Let joy re - sound!
 Be - fore the LORD, the King,
 Their joy be - fore the LORD!
 All men with e - qui - ty,

Sing psalms! Let joy
 Be - fore the LORD,
 Their joy be - fore
 All men with e -

Sing psalms! Let joy re - sound!
 Be - fore the LORD, the King,
 Their joy be - fore the LORD!
 All men with e - qui - ty,

re - sound!
 the King,
 the LORD!
 qui - ty,

Sing psalms! Let joy
 Be - fore the LORD,
 Their joy be - fore
 All men with e -

Sing psalms! Let joy re - sound!
 Be - fore the LORD, the King.
 Their joy be - fore the LORD!
 All men with e - qui - ty.

re - sound! Sing psalms! Let joy re - sound!
 the King, Be - fore the LORD, the King.
 the LORD! Their joy be - fore the LORD!
 qui - ty, All men with e - qui - ty.

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

JOY TO THE WORLD

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature
sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the
sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. 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.
4. 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, and wonders of His
love.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING!

1. Hark! the herald angels sing. "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."
2. Come, Desire of nations, come; fix in us Thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering seed, bruise in us the serpent's
head. Adam's image now efface, stamp Thy image in its place.
O' to all Thyself impart, formed in each believing heart.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

1. 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.
4. 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.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch
are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds
guard and angels sing: haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe,
the son of Mary.
2. So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to
own Him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts
enthroned Him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings
her lullaby; joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above, and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King"; the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
4. For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophet bards foretold, when with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold; when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

THE FIRST NOEL

1. The first Noel, the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

5. Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

1. Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright, round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight! Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
4. Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, alleluia to our King; Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!

THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

Today is called the Birthday of the Lord, when the Wisdom of God showed Himself as an infant, and the Word of God spoke the voice of flesh without words. However, that hidden divinity was made known to the Magi with a heavenly witness, and was announced to the shepherds with an angelic voice. And so, as is our yearly custom, we celebrate this day—the day on which the prophecy was fulfilled which says: “*Truth sprang forth from the earth, and righteousness looked down from heaven*” (Ps. 85:11). The Truth which is in the lap of the Father sprang forth from the earth to be in the lap of a mother also. The Truth in which the universe is contained sprang forth from the earth to be carried in the hands of a woman. The Truth which by which the happiness of Angels is unfailingly nourished sprang forth from the earth to be nursed by breast of flesh. The Truth for whom heaven is not enough sprang forth from the earth to be placed in a manger. For whose good came such sublimity in such humility? Certainly He came for no good of His own, but for our great good—if we believe. Wake up! God became man for you!

— *Augustine of Hippo (354-430)*

NURSERY

Nurseries are available for children three-years-old and under. They are located down the hallways behind the pulpit.

POINSETTIAS

Those individuals who donated poinsettias for the Christmas season are invited to take them home at the conclusion of tonight's service.