



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

January 4, 2009
Eleven o'clock

SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

THE GATHERING

The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. In the spirit of Christian fellowship, we invite you to wear a name tag which is available from the greeters. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the blue cards available from the ushers and in the welcome pad folders. Please place the prayer cards in the offering for inclusion in the Pastoral Prayer. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word or song are noted in bold type.

** Stand as you are able.*

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| PRELUDE | In Dulci Jubilo | Denis Bedard |
| * HYMN 56 | The First Nowell | The First Nowell |

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Rejoice! Our Light has come!

People: God's glory is all around us, bringing hope and peace.

Leader: No more will the darkness claim us!

People: We are children of God's great light.

Leader: God's love is made known to all people.

People: From near and far, we are drawn to God's light and love.

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| INTROIT | Herbert Sumsion |
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Arise, Shine; arise, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please use the welcome pad in the blue folder at the end of the pew. Record your presence. Pass it back, noticing who is worshipping with you. When the pad has been returned, please tear off the sheet and place it in the offering plate.)

MINUTE FOR CULTUREFEST

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, you have always given people a way to find you. A message from an angel to the shepherds. A star in the sky to guide the Magi. To guide us you have revealed your glory and your love in the person of Jesus - the light of the world - and led us to him through the Scriptures. As we offer our thanks for the gift of your Son, we recognize our responsibility to be bearers of his light and love into the areas of people's lives darkened by pain and fear, poverty and oppression, sorrow and hopelessness. We confess the times when we choose to go our own way rather than be guided by you - the times when we are reluctant to allow the power and radiance of Christ to flow through us. Strengthen us with your Spirit to follow wherever you lead us. Give us courage and great joy to serve you in this new year. This we pray in the name of Jesus our Lord, Amen.

PRAYERS OF SILENT AND INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Friends, believe and proclaim the Good News: in Jesus Christ, love breaks through hatred, hope breaks through despair, life breaks through death.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, loved, and set free.
Thanks be to God!

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymnal No. 579

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.*

* EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Leader: Let us open our hearts to one another as Christ has opened his heart to us, and God will be glorified.

People: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

(Exchange Signs of Reconciliation and the Peace of Christ with your neighbor - e.g., *“The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.”*)

Response - *“And also with you.”*)

+ Children and Youth leave for their classes. +

* HYMN 67 Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning *Morning Star*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON John 1:10-18

SECOND LESSON Jeremiah 31:7-14

SERMON “Remember The Future” Rev. Richard S. Hong

* NICENE CREED

We believe in one 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 the 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 quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father

and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY

A New Year

Reginald Unterseher

A New Year! Ring out old sorrow, bring in joy and harmony.

Ring out fear's cold isolation, bring in hope in community.

Leave the shadows that shroud us, bless the lessons they give.

Turn our hearts to the light where we may live.

A New Year, leave hate and anger, bring in peace and dignity.

Ring out doubt and separation, bring in faith and unity.

Ring in love!

* THE DOXOLOGY

Old Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Creator, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Pastor: Eternal and ever-living God...

. . . who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Pastor: Holy God, in Your mercy . . .

. . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor: We take this bread and wine and joyfully celebrate this Holy Sacrament. ... And now, with the confidence of the children of God, let us 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. —Revelation 3:20

All who trust in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior are invited to participate in this celebration.

BREAD: To be taken individually, symbolic of your personal commitment to God through Jesus Christ.

CUP: Please wait until all are served, symbolic of your corporate belonging together in the body of Christ. Grape juice is the fruit of the vine used in our celebration of the sacrament.

ANTHEM

The Shepherd's Farewell

Hector Berlioz

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,

Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,

Loving father, loving mother, Shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,

In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!

May the Shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!

Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!

God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely though the wild!

(Text: *L'enfance du Christ*. Translated from French, Paul England)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

THE SENDING OUT

* HYMN 66 We Three Kings of Orient Are *Three Kings of Orient*

* BENEDECTION

* CHORAL AMEN

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Leo Sowerby

(Our worship ends with the conclusion of the Postlude. It is the custom of our church to remain seated. Those who wish to leave may do so.)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

John 1:10-18 (NRSV)

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Jeremiah 31:7-14 (NRSV)

For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from

the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.