



606 Mockingbird Lane, Weatherford, Texas 76086
817-594-2744 Metro 817-341-2258
www.gracefirstpc.org

The Reverend Edith A Gause, Interim Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music



THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 23, 2018

10:40 A.M.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.*

Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to God's house of worship. As we light the Christ Candle, we are reminded that Jesus is "the Light of the World" (John 8:12) and of his sustaining presence. With the pouring of the Baptismal Water, we know that we are made clean and given new life by our faith in God. Let us lift up our voices in song and prayer that we may be refreshed, and our hearts in praise and adoration that we may "walk in the newness of life" (Romans 6:4) as we joyously worship our Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. *(Please sign the attendance register and pass it along, greeting those near you. Guests, please share your address and telephone number with us.)*

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary

"Greensleeves"

Richard Purvis

Chimes

The Entrance of the Bible

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Erik and Linda Skov

Call to Worship (Responsive)

From the most insignificant, God brings forth promise.

From Bethlehem comes One who will be great.

When the time is ripe, God brings forth bounty.

From Bethlehem comes One who will provide.

*Charge and Benediction (Responsive)

Having been fed in strength of the Lord;

Having rejoiced in the majesty of God's name;

Having been anointed with the hope of security;

Let us live out the promise of peace.

Friends, go knowing that hope is restored.

We go in peace to obey the commandments of Jesus our Lord.

Go to love as God has loved you.

All: We go in joy knowing that the mystery of God's love is now revealed to us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Closing Congregational Response Hymn 110, vs. 1

Bring A Torch

**Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love!
Glory to God on high**

*Closing Voluntary

"From Heaven on High"

Johann Pachelbel

Please join us tomorrow evening, at 6:45 for our Christmas Eve Service.

We will welcome Sydney Howell as our guest Harpist.

*Sydney has played for us many years,
and we are delighted she will join us Christmas Eve.*

ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Joys and Concerns of the Church

Prayer for the People and Lord’s Prayer Choral Amen

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.

Call to Stewardship

Offertory “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” Michael Praetorius

*Congregational Response Hymn 606 Old Hundredth
Doxology
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Offertory Prayer

Bearing and Following the Word into the World

*Hymn 132 In Dulci Jubilo
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

*Invitation to Discipleship

Then all will be secure, for God brings forth a shepherd.
From Bethlehem comes One who will be peace.

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 93 Truro
“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)
God, too often we have failed to magnify your name and your love. We have chosen darkness rather than light and despair rather than hope. At times we have trusted our own feeble abilities rather than your grace and might. We have chosen to exalt ourselves at the expense of others. We have sought material things rather than your justice. Forgive us, we pray, that our joy may be fulfilled and that we may receive our Lord again.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

*Congregational Response Hymn 87 v. 1 Genevan

“Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!” So says our God.
“Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow’s load.
To my people now proclaim
that my pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their sins I cover,
and their warfare now is over.”



Proclaiming the Word

Prayer of Illumination

Music Ministry

“Sing to the Child”
Sanctuary Choir

K. Lee Scott

Shepherds were watching near Bethlehem,
Under the starry night sky.
Suddenly angels sang;
tiding of joy outrang;
Praises to God on high.

*Sing to the Child, sing to the Savior,
Sing with the angels 'round Bethlehem.
Glory to God, joy to all people,
Sing to the Holy Child.*

After the angels had gone away,
Quickly they ran to the stall.
And, as the angels said,
here in a manger bed rested the Lord of All.

Joseph and Mary, his mother mild,
Welcomed the shepherds that night.
Bowing, they worshiped Him, praising with cherubim.
Honoring this Babe of Light.

Let us then worship and honor Him.
Joining with angels above.
Let us with shepherds fall there in the lowly stall,
Praising the Lord of Love. Sing to this wondrous Child!

Scripture Reading
Micah 5:2-5a

Pew Bible
Page 865

A reading from Micah.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Time

Pastor David

Children’s Worship

*Kids up through 5th grade may go to Children’s Worship.
All others stay in the sanctuary.*

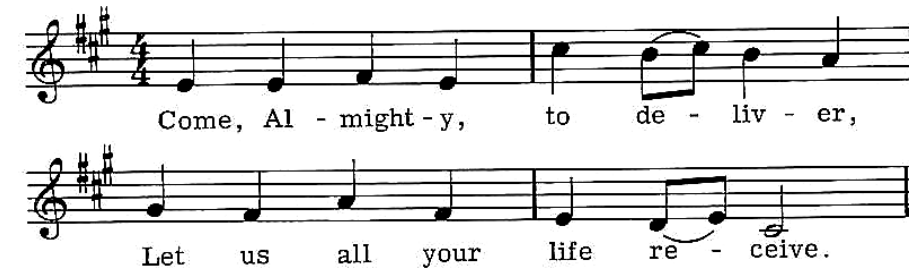
Psalm 80:1-7

Pew Bible Page 540

Cantor: Rusty Crownover

REFRAIN

John Zundel



© 1988 Hope Publishing Company

Sermon Text

Luke 1:39-45

Pew Bibles

Page 57

Sermon

The Reverend David A. Slyter

ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES BLESSED

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 115

“Away in a Manger”

Muller

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison)

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he