

Prayer for the People and Lord’s Prayer
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.

Call to Stewardship
All undesignated cash goes to the Transient Fund.

Offertory Arr. Charles Callahan
“Once in Royal David’s City”

*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 117 Winchester Old
“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

Hymn 128 W Zlobie Lezy
“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

*Hymn 134 Antioch
“Joy to the Word”

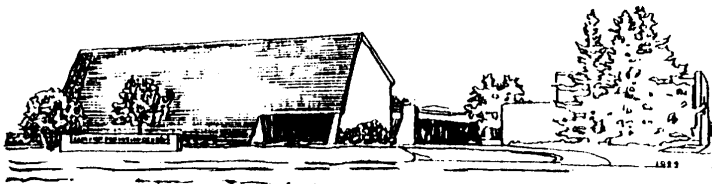
*Invitation to Discipleship

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Congregational Response 114 v.1 Cradle Song
Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

*Peace of Christ
The peace of Christ be with you
And also with you

*Closing Voluntary Arr. Charles Callahan
“Ding Dong! Merrily on High”



Today’s Liturgy has been adapted from:
Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1



Grace First

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Together – Worshipping, Witnessing, Working

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The Reverend Ashley Drake Mertz, Pastor
The Reverend David A. Slyter, Associate Pastor
Marialice Parish, M.M., Organist and Director of Music

THE ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

December 29, 2019 10:40 A.M.

First Sunday of Christmas

**The congregation is invited to stand as music begins.
Additional worshipers may enter as the congregation sings.*

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome to worship at Grace First Presbyterian Church! 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, pass it down the pew, and then back so everyone can greet those worshipping in their pew.)**

Gathering Around the Word

Opening Voluntary Marcel Dupré
“In Dulci Jubilo”

Entrance of Baptismal Water, the Christ Light,
and the Bible

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:

Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.

Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.

Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.

Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.

**God’s glory shines in heaven and on earth.
Praise the Lord!**

Prayer of Invocation

*Hymn 119 *Mendelssohn*
“Hark! The Herald Angel Sing”

*Hymn 145 Greensleeves
“What Child Is This”

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, in great love you have claimed us as your children. We confess that we have not loved you as we should. We have not participated fully in your purposes and plans; we grow weary and give up when they way is hard. We have not loved our brothers and sisters as you intend. Complacent in the presence of injustice and violence, we fail to recognize our own complicity. Forgive us, especially when we fail to protect children so vulnerable and precious in your sight. Forgive our misuse of power against people, and against your creation. Help us to praise you by living in harmony and peace. Do not be ashamed of us, we pray, but strengthen us in our time of testing. Set us free from fear that we may wholly trust in you. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ...

Silent Confession...

Assurance of Forgiveness (Responsive)

Children of God, it is clear that Jesus Christ came to help sinners. He is our Savior in all our distress, and it is his presence that saves us. Declare with me the good news of the gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

*Congregational Response Hymn 136 *Go Tell It*
“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Proclaiming the Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Pew Bible: Page

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Pew Bible: Page

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God.

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 123 *Carol*
“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

*Hymn 121 *St. Louis*
“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*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 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