

TAKOMA PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
**The First Sunday in Christmastide**  
**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

December 27, 2020  
Live-streamed at 11:00 a.m.



Giovanni Girolamo Salvoldo, *The Adoration of the Shepherds*, oil on panel, c. 1530s.  
Washington, DC, National Gallery of Art, Samuel H. Kress Collection, 1961.9.86

*"We are all meant to be mothers of God. What good is it to me if this eternal birth of the divine [One] takes place unceasingly, but does not take place within myself? And, what good is it to me if Mary is full of grace if I am not also full of grace? What good is it to me for the Creator to give birth to the Son if I do not also give birth to him in my time and my culture? This, then, is the fullness of time: When the [Incarnate One] is begotten in us."*  
--Meister Eckhart (1260-1328)



*(If you wish to share a prayer during the Prayers of the People,  
you may write your petition in the Chat format.)*

## **GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME**

### **Prelude**

### **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

**The bread of God has come down from heaven, giving life  
to the world.**

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts;

**Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly.**

### **Opening Hymn 141**

PERSONENT HODIE

### **On This Day Earth Shall Ring**

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ the King, born on earth to save us;  
Him the Father gave us.

*Id-e-o - o, - o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o, Gloria in ex-cel-sis De -o!*

His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came down to earth  
Bethlehem saw his birth; Ox and ass beside him  
From the cold would hide him.

*Id-e-o - o, - o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o, Gloria in ex-cel-sis De -o!*

God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to him led;  
Kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
Praise him and adore him.

*Id-e-o - o, - o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o, Gloria in ex-cel-sis De -o!*

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;  
Peace and love he gave us.

*Id-e-o - o, - o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o, Gloria in ex-cel-sis De -o!*

## **Opening Prayer (Unison)**

Let us be glad in the ways of the Lord who presides over stars yet teaches the human heart, who authors the mystery of our freedom and risks the divine love among our human choices, who intends that each one will go without fear and that all will share the music of the deep heavens, who gathers us to learn together who we are in the presence of the Most High. Let us be glad in the ways of the Lord who is our health and our salvation. Amen.

## **Invitation to Confession**

### **Silent Prayer**

#### **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

O God, eternal source of wisdom, power, and love, we confess the superficiality of our lives. We live in the midst of haste and confusion without the wisdom to renew ourselves by quiet and withdrawal. We listen to the voices that whisper to us of ease, caution, and compromise when we should be listening to your Spirit. We have deceived ourselves into thinking that perpetual motion is action.

Forgive us, Lord. Lift our vision that we may see how frantic our lives really are. Make us feel the compulsion of your indwelling love and the confidence that comes from dwelling in it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save us.

**Jesus himself died on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.**

I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**It Came upon a Midnight Clear**

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
Beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
And we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;  
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angel's sing!

And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angel's sing.

**Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you, **And also with you.**

*(Worshipers may unmute themselves and share the peace.)*

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**Song for Illumination 136**

**GO TELL IT**

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, that tell it on the mountain, Our Jesus Christ is born!

While Shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;*  
*Go, that tell it on the mountain, Our Jesus Christ is born!*

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
*Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and everywhere;*  
*Go, that tell it on the mountain, Our Jesus Christ is born!*

## First Scripture

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent the Incarnate Word, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of Jesus Christ into our hearts, crying, 'Abba!' So, you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

## Anthem

Christmas Lullaby (Suo-gân)

Welsh Melody

Arr. James T. Bingham

## Second Scripture

Luke 2:25-40

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

## **Silent Reflection on the Word**

**Sermon**

**The Fullness of Time**

Pastor Reisner

**Hymn 114**

CRADLE SONG

### **Away in the Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus a sleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care  
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayers of the People

Rev. Eugene Eastman

The prayers in the chat box will be read with the response:

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

### The Lord's Prayer - Traditional

Our Father, our Mother, who art in heaven,

Hallowed be your name

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever. Amen.

### The Offering Invitation

#### The Offertory

#### What Child Is This

Carlos Salzedo

Cheryl Jacob-Roeske, harp

#### Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from who all blessings flow:

Praise Christ all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit evermore:

Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen

### Prayer of Dedication

Great God, we praise you for the gift of Jesus Christ. We thank you for the prophets' hope, the angels' song, the birth in Bethlehem. We thank you that in Jesus you joined us, sharing human suffering and joy. With the magi, we now offer our gifts and our lives in devoted dedication to you. Glory to you for your wonderful and everlasting love; through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

## Announcements of the Community's Life

### SENT IN GOD'S NAME

Sending Hymn 132

IN DULCI JUBILO

#### Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest for ever more.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ever-lasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

#### Charge and Benediction

*Community worship ends; discipleship & service begin anew.*

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#### *Participants in this morning's service*

Jim Reisner, Interim Pastor  
Andrew Nicholson, Liturgist  
Eugene Eastman, Parish Assistant  
Dr. James Bingham, Music Director  
Cheryl Jacob-Roeske, Harpist  
Roger Griffis, Song Leader  
Gary Cardillo, Cinematographer  
Joe Reynolds, Technician



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **ZOOM schedule for this week**

Monday, Dec. 28, 12 noon	No Coffee Hour this week
Wednesday, Dec. 30, 7:00 PM	Evening Prayer
Sunday, Jan. 3, 11:00 AM	Second Sunday of Christmastide with Communion

**+Welcome everyone!** Thank you for your continued support of TPPC. As a reminder, there are several ways to give to TPPC.

You may choose any of the following methods.

- 1) Give through our online giving platform at <https://tinyurl.com/TPPOnlinegiving>.
- 2) Mail checks to the church office (310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912).
- 3) Use your bank's online bill pay feature: your bank may offer an option to send a check automatically each month, or to do a transfer directly to TPPC's bank account.

If the latter, email Thomas Showalter ([tshowal@gmail.com](mailto:tshowal@gmail.com)) for the routing number and the account number. Also let Thomas ([tshowal@gmail.com](mailto:tshowal@gmail.com)) know if you have any questions. The Finance and Stewardship Ministries give thanks for the faithful giving of TPPC members, friends and visitors!

**+Please keep the Pastor Nominating Committee in your prayers.** Our PNC members are: Philip Boyer, Carol Christensen, LaVerne Davis, Roger Griffis, Samuel Kalibala, Madeline Radman, and Vicki Warren.

## STAFF

“Ministers: all the people of the church.”

**James L. Reisner** - *Interim Pastor*  
**Dr. James Bingham** - *Director of Music*  
**Joanna Tipton** - *Bookkeeper*  
**Gary Cardillo** - *Buildings Manager*  
**Martha Talento** - *Nursery Supervisor*  
**Teresa Abanto** - *Nursery Assistants*  
**Una Kettering** - *Office Administrator* [office@takomaparkpc.org](mailto:office@takomaparkpc.org)

<b>Parish Associates</b>	<b>Rev. John Seaman</b>
	<b>Rev. Carolyn Tilley</b>
<b>Parish Assistant</b>	<b>Rev. Eugene Olu Eastman</b>
<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Isaac Frazer</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Aggie Patti</b>

## SESSION

<b>Class of 2020</b>	<b>Class of 2021</b>	<b>Class of 2022</b>
Mary Pat Brennan	LaVerne Davis	Anthony Gitangu
Cynthia Barron	Jean Dickey	Ferd Hoefner
Wendy Lukehart	Rebecca Phares	Susan Swift
Thomas Showalter	Alphonso Williams	Barbara Wootton

## DEACONS

Caroline Gagnon	Elias Howard	Mary Jacksteit
Isaac Frazer	Lisa Kiely	Karen Lange
Madeline Radman	Roger Griffis	Martha Kiger

<b>Clerk of Session</b>	Ferd Hoefner
<b>Moderator of Deacons</b>	Karen Lange

**The Work of Christmas  
Begins**

*When the songs of the angels are stilled*

*When the star in the sky is gone*

*When the kings and princes are home*

*When the shepherds are back with their flocks*

*The work of Christmas begins:*

*to find the lost*

*to heal the broken*

*to feed the hungry*

*to release the prisoner*

*to rebuild the nations*

*to bring peace among the people*

*to make music in the heart.*

..... Howard Thurman