

ALL SAINTS Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

OUR LORD CALLS US TO WORSHIP HIM

Lighting of the Four Advent Candles

† *Pastor.* Let us worship God! We are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Congregation: We give thanks to the Lord.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

There will come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse; and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

Isaiah 9:2 & 60:1



Lift up your hearts...

We lift them up to the Lord!

† COLLECT & 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 have forgiven 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.**

† **Congregational Singing**

The First Noel—248-249

OUR LORD CLEANSSES US FROM OUR SIN

A Corporate Reading of Our Lord's Instruction

The LORD is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.

The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.

All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and Your godly ones shall bless You.

They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power; to make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD sustains all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to You, and You give them their food in due time.

You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

Psalm 145:8-16



**AN INVITATION TO CONFESS
OUR SINS:**

† The congregation is invited to stand

‡ CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER
We Confess Our Sins, Together & Individually

Heavenly Father, we are made in Your image and we are to portray Your glory in all that we do. Still we sin and have fallen short of Your glory. Our speech betrays us. We are not able to control our tongues. We have not placed a guard over our mouths. We have been sinfully silent when we should have spoken. We have spoken when we should have remained silent. We have sinned by speaking in ignorance, and we have sinned by speaking ill of others. In Your faithfulness, grant us Your sure word of pardon. In Your compassion, and for the sake of Your Son, hear and forgive us as we continue in prayer, confessing these sins...

[We pause in prayer, and then conclude together...]

O Lord, we give You thanks for Your kindness and abundant pardon; provided through Your Son who has died for us, taking the penalty which was our due, and You have received us in Him. Now grant, most merciful Lord, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, and this to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*—415

† ABSOLUTION: Our Assurance of Forgiveness is declared
“In the Name of God the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit”
“Thanks be to God!”

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Good Christian Men, Rejoice*—238



THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We join together praying for the church, one another, and the world

OUR LORD TEACHES US FROM HIS WORD

Scripture Lesson from
the Old Testament
Zechariah 2

Scripture Lesson from
the Epistles
Romans 3:9-20

“This is the Word of the Lord”
“Thanks be to God!”

† Gospel Lesson—Luke 1:5-17

“This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ”
“Praise be to Christ!”

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Gloria Patri*—436

Sermon Text
Luke 1:18-25

Sermon
Silence
Pastor Jeff Niell

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*—241

‡ The congregation is invited to kneel

† The congregation is invited to stand

IN GRATEFUL RESPONSE

We Present the Lord's Tithes & Our Offerings

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *The Doxology*
As the offering is brought forward, we lift our hearts, hands, and voices in thankful praise...

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication

OUR LORD INVITES US TO HIS TABLE

Let Us Confess a Portion of Our Faith: 1 Timothy 3:16

† *Pastor:* We join to confess the great mystery of godliness:

**God was revealed in the flesh,
Vindicated by the Spirit,
Seen by the angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed in the world,
Taken up in glory.**

Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us:
Therefore let us keep the feast!

The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*—insert

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

We commune with the Lord & with one another

The Lord's Supper should not be observed in individual homes.

† CONGREGATIONAL SINGING: *Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come*—240

OUR LORD COMMISSIONS US

† Benediction & Singing

Doxology from *Of the Father's Love Begotten* (p. 247)

Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and O Holy Ghost to Thee,
Hymn and chant with high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALENDAR

TODAY



Today is the Fourth – and final – Sunday of Advent. During Advent we confess that Jesus is the Savior of all. Mary confessed her need of a Savior. The shepherds left their flocks in order to see this Shepherd. Magi came from the East acknowledging this Child as royalty. As Savior He was adored *and* opposed, loved *and* hated, worshipped *and* an object of murder. He is the fulfillment of the Scriptures; He came unto His own and His own did not receive Him. Rejection and acceptance were encountered in and around the Person of the Savior, and through it all we see that He is the Savior of the nations. He is the Savior of those who, like Simeon, had long awaited and expected one to arise who was greater than Moses, Solomon, and all the prophets. Jesus is the Savior of the lovely and elderly Anna, and He is the Savior the little children who were welcomed into His presence. He is the only Savior, and He is our Savior.

THIS WEEK

No Midweek at All Saints. Midweek resumes January 10, 2024

PLEASE NOTE

Pregnancy Help Center of Fort Worth – Giving Response

During Advent and through Epiphany we will be gathering items to support the Pregnancy Help Center of Fort Worth. Particular items of need this year - for babies: diapers, baby wash, pacifiers, baby toys & books, and baby clothes; for moms: Bibles, socks, chapstick, maternity clothes, lotion, and gift cards for gas or food. Strollers and playpens are always great as well. Donations can be placed in the back corner of the foyer by the main entrance. Final day to bring in items is Sunday, January 7th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 7 – Send-off Reception in the Fellowship Hall for families joining Christ Covenant Granbury.

January 21 – Installation of New Deacons – Plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for a reception celebrating God’s provision of additional servant leaders.

February 4 – Fellowship Meal – Monthly Fellowship Meals are coming back at ASPC! Mark your calendars for the first Sunday of every month. Plan to join us for this festive church-wide potluck! Details to come.

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Noah Douglas, Justin Durst,
Brandon (Kruz) Herrera,
Kyle Hintze,

Administrative Assistant | Kim Lokey - admin@allsaintskirk.org

The First Noel

THE FIRST NOWELL (Irregular)

Traditional English carol

from William Sandys' *Christmas Carols, Ancient and Modern*, 1833

English carol from Davies Gilbert's

Some Ancient Christmas Carols, 1823

1. The first No - el the an - gel did say Was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin - ing
 3. *And by the light of that same star Three*
 4. *This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er*
 5. Then en - tered in those Wise Men three, Full
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In fields where
 in the east, be - yond them far; And to the
 Wise Men came from coun - try far; To seek for a
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest; And there it
 rev - 'rent - ly up - on their knee, And of - fered
 prais - es to our heav'n - ly Lord, That hath made

they lay, keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's night that
 earth it gave great light, And so it con - tin - ued both
 King was their in - tent, And to fol - low the star where
 did both stop and stay, Right o - ver the place where
 there, in His pres - ence, Their gold and myrrh and
 heav'n and earth of naught, And with His blood man -

was so deep.
 day and night.
 ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No - el, No -
 Je - sus lay.
 frank - in - cense.
 kind hath bought.

el, Born is the King of Is - ra - el!

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

Psalm 51:10-12

From a melody by J. A. Freylinghausen, 1704
adapted, Harold W. Gilbert

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of five systems, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Thy pres - ence: and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va - tion: and up - hold me with Thy free Spir - it."

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO (6 6. 7 7. 7 8. 5 5)

German melody, 14th century

harm. Michael Praetorius, 1607; alt.

Latin carol, 14th century

tr. John Mason Neale, 1853

1. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;—
 2. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;—
 3. Good Chris-tian men, re-joice With heart and soul and voice;—

Give ye heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
 Now ye hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this!
 Now ye need not fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save!

Ox and ass be-fore Him bow, And He is in the man-ger now.
 He hath oped the heav'n-ly door; And man is blessed for-ev-er-more.
 Calls you one and calls you all, To gain His ev-er-last-ing hall.

Christ is born to-day! Christ is born to-day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Gloria Patri

GLORIA PATRI (Irreg.)
Charles Meineke, 1844

2nd century

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

The first system of musical notation for 'Gloria Patri'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major. The treble staff contains a vocal line with lyrics: 'Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the'. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and some moving lines.

Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er

The second system of musical notation. The treble staff continues the vocal line with lyrics: 'Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er'. The bass staff continues the piano accompaniment.

shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.

The third and final system of musical notation. The treble staff concludes the vocal line with lyrics: 'shall be, world with - out end. A - men, a - men.'. The bass staff concludes the piano accompaniment with a final chord.

CHRISTMAS

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY (8 7. 8 7. 8 7)
 French traditional carol, 17th century
 arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Liturgy of St. James
 tr. Gerard Moultrie, 1864

Unison

1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, And with fear and
 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
 4. At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
 earth He stood, Lord of lords, in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, As the Light of light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,

For with bless - ing in His hand, Christ our God to
 In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to
 From the realms of end - less day, That the pow'rs of
 As with cease - less voice they cry: Al - le - lu - ia,

earth de - scend - eth, Our full hom - age to de - mand.
 all the faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
 hell may van - ish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift - ly wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!



Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come

ANTIOCH (C.M.)
Lowell Mason, 1836

Isaac Watts, 1719

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

Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 He comes to make His bless - ings flow
 The glo - ries of His right - eous - 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, And

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,