

OFFERTORY PRAYER

CHORAL OFFERTORY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

arr. Hal H. Hopson

*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.*

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS *(Please hold the elements until all are served)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN No. 59

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

CHRISTMAS

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, Still the dear Christ enters in.*

Hymn No. 44

POSTLUDE

Awake! A Voice Calls to Us

J.S. Bach

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LEBANON, TENNESSEE

Service for the Lord's Day

First Sunday of Advent

December 2, 2018

11:00 a.m.



THE GATHERING

To Glorify God and Enjoy God Forever

SILENT MEDITATION

PRELUDE

Kyrie from "Mass of the Angels"

Lani Smith

CHIMING THE HOUR

CHORAL INTROIT

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE (from Isaiah 11:1-10)

The Sloane Family

Leader: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!
Let us pray together.

People: God, in whom we hope, we wait for your coming to us once again.
Strengthen us as we wait, so that we will not lack any spiritual gift.
Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming. Amen.

Sing: *Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.*

*HYMN NO. 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORD OF WORSHIP

Carol Turner

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Wonder,

We go through our days focused on the mundane when we should be searching for the miraculous.

We confess that the thought of encountering your glory terrifies us.

We ignore signs of splendor.

We question whether good news is actually good.

We dismiss the promise of peace.

Forgive us our shortcomings and help us to recognize your messengers when they appear. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Friends, believe the good news.

People: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA

Hymn No. 23

Gloria in excelsis Deo;

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

*THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

Speak to us, Lord.

Speak to us in the waiting, the watching,

the hoping, the longing,

the sorrow, the sighing, the rejoicing.

Speak to us by your Word in these Advent days,

and walk with us until the day of your coming. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:8-20

Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Comfort, comfort, O my people, tell of peace, now says our God;

Comfort those who sit in darkness, bowed beneath oppression's load.

Speak unto Jerusalem; speak of peace that waits for them;

tell that all their sins I cover; tell that warfare now is over.

Hark, the herald's voice is calling in the dessert far and near,

bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey: Now prepare for God away;

let the valleys rise to meet him; let the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;

let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.

See the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;

all the world shall see this token, God's own word is never broken.

TIME FOR THE CHILDREN

Children are invited to come forward.

SERMON

Searching for Good News

Rev. Sherard Edington

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN NO. 1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

* Those who are able are invited to stand.