

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 14, 2025

When the musical prelude begins, the congregation is invited to spend time preparing their hearts for corporate worship.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ephesians 5:14; 2 Corinthians 4:6

Leader: Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.

People: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

HYMN OF PRAISE

1. Angels, from the realms of glory
Wing your flight o'er all the earth
Ye who sang creation's story
Now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

2. Shepherds in the fields abiding
Watching o'er your flocks by night
God with man is now residing
Yonder shines the infant Light
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

3. Sages leave your contemplations
Brighter visions beam afar
Seek the great Desire of nations
Ye have seen His natal star
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Angels, From the Realms of Glory

4. Saints before the altar bending
Watching long in hope and fear
Suddenly the Lord, descending,
In His temple shall appear
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

5. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son
Evermore your voices raising
To th' eternal Three in One
Come and worship, come and worship
Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Author: James Montgomery © Public Domain

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") ¹⁶For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God; God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. Forgive our continued love for darkness. Though rich, you became poor, but we are greedy and covet the things of this world. You did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped but took the form of a servant, yet we exalt ourselves and do as we please. You were born under the law, to redeem those who are under the law, but we give little thought to true righteousness as reflected in your life. Open our eyes to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ! And as we behold your glory, transform us into your image, from one degree of glory to another, through your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Matthew 1:21

²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

What Child is This

1. What Child is this who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and cattle are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear, shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant king to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Raise, raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Author: William Chatterton Dix
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CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Lydia Jane Granger

Meredith Hope Granger

Theodore David Granger

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
from age to age. Amen, amen.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

SERMON

“Salvation Belongs to the Lord”

Jonah 1:17-2:10

- Rev. Bryan Rigg

Jonah 1:17-2:10

¹⁷ And the Lord appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

¹ Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, ² saying, “I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. ³ For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your breakers and your waves passed over me. ⁴ Then I said, ‘I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.’ ⁵ The waters closed in over me to take my life; the deep surrounded me; weeds were wrapped about my head. ⁶ To the roots of the mountains I went down, to the land whose bars closed upon me forever. Yet you brought up my life from the pit, O LORD my God. ⁷ When my life was fainting away, I remembered the LORD, and my prayer came to you, into your holy temple. ⁸ Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their hope of steadfast love. ⁹ But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the LORD!” ¹⁰ And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out upon the dry land.

SERMON NOTES

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation;
Hope of all the saints Thou art.
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart!

2. Joy to those who long to see thee,
Dayspring from on high appear.
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse;
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, Glad tidings of a birth.
"Go to him, your praises bringing;
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Authors: Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Rowland Hugh Prichard © Public Domain

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness,
He whose glories knew no end.
By His life He brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall.
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all!

4. Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring!
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone.
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne!

HYMN OF RESPONSE

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

*Authors: Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel
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Joy to the World

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD!

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