



**INDEPENDENT**  
Presbyterian Church

*December 24, 2021*

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.



# THE CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE

December 24, 2021

5:30 p.m.

## THE PRELUDE

“Music of the Season”  
*Claire Learned, Harp*  
*Ric Browning, Trumpet*  
*Emilee Garrett, Organ*

## THE CHORAL INTROIT

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

In Dulci Jubilo

## THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Isaiah 9:6-7

*The Minister:* For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Amen!  
Let us worship God!

*The Reverend Robert O. Browning, Associate Pastor*

## THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

No. 208

## THE INVOCATION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father 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. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

## THE OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10; Isaiah 63:7-9; Isaiah 7:14

<sup>7</sup>How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." <sup>8</sup>The voice of your watchmen — they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for eye to eye they see the return of the Lord to Zion. <sup>9</sup>Break forth together into singing, you waste places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted his people; he has redeemed Jerusalem. <sup>10</sup>The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

<sup>7</sup>I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. <sup>8</sup>For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely." And he became their Savior. <sup>9</sup>In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

## THE ANTHEM

"Christmas Hymn"

arr. Jüngst

*James A. Brown, Jr., Director*

While by my sheep I watch'd at night  
Glad tidings brought an angel bright:  
How great my joy, joy, joy joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

There shall be born, so he did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today:  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

There shall He lie in manger mean,  
Who shall redeem the world from sin.  
How great my joy, joy, joy, joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

Lord, evermore to me be nigh,  
Then shall my heart be fill'd with joy!  
How great my joy, joy, joy joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 1:18-2:12

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star

had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

## THE SCRIPTURE READING

Micah 5:1-5

<sup>1</sup>Now muster your troops, O daughter of troops; siege is laid against us; with a rod they strike the judge of Israel on the cheek. <sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. <sup>5</sup>And he shall be their peace.

## THE SERMON

“Surprised by Hope”  
*Dr. Sean Michael Lucas*  
*Senior Pastor*

## THE HYMN OF PREPARATION

“What Child Is This”

No. 213

## THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

### THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes. — *1 Corinthians 11:26*

## THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

No. 218

## THE BENEDICTION

## THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

Stille Nacht

*The Choir:*

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*The Congregation:*

Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing alleluia to our King;  
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

## THE POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

arr. Burkhardt



*To our church family and all of our guests this evening,  
the ministers, officers, and staff of the church wish you  
a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!*



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