

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Service for the Lord's Day

December 27, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

GATHERING

The peace candle represents our prayers for peace in a broken world. The congregation is asked to offer prayers of intercession for one another and for those who lead in these times of remote worship.

PRELUDE

“From Heaven Above, BWV 606”

Johann Sebastian Bach

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice, BWV 729”

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy,

for he has been glorified!

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in darkness.**

We confess sometimes we have not welcomed the light.

We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst.

Our hearts have grown pessimistic,

Expecting little, and hoping for less.

Forgive our doubt.

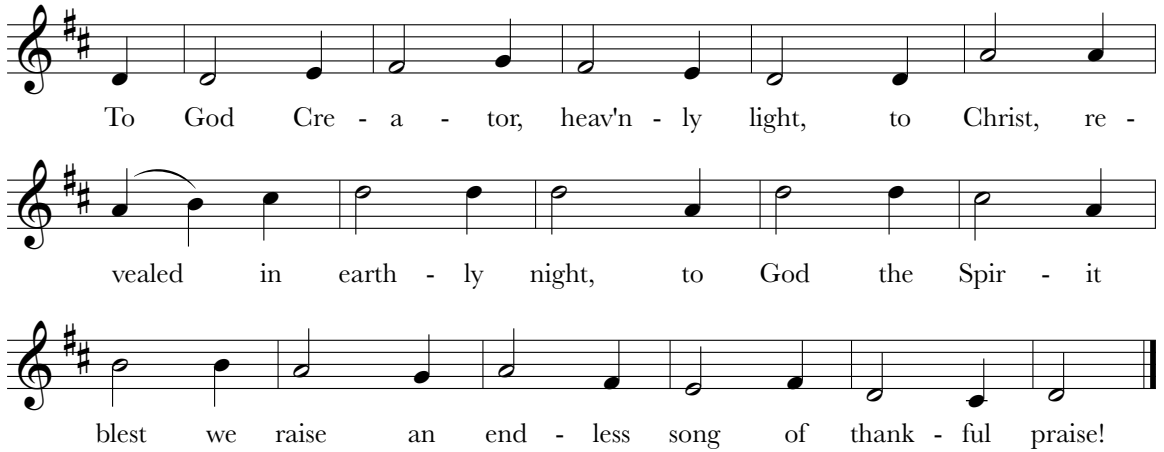
Renew our hope,

so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

DOXOLOGY

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR



To God Cre - a - tor, heav'n - ly light, to Christ, re -
vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Spir - it
blest we raise an end - less song of thank - ful praise!

SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

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

CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND 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 forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

Otto Goldschmidt

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race: It blooms without blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter turning darkness into light. This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring; the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing; our God of endless might, gave her this child to save us thus turning darkness into light.

-anonymous 16th-century; William Bartholomew, trans.

Samantha Noonan, Hannah Nacheman, Brandon Hynum, and Andrew Martens

HEARING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 61:11-62:3

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

SERMON

“What’s Next?”

Hannah Faye Allred, M.Div.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 115

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

Louie L. White

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

—c. 6th-century Latin hymn

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

HYMN 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccatà on ‘Joy to the World’”

Craig Phillips

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping through the postlude,
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

STAFF CONTACTS

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