



Tates Creek

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to our church!

We're glad you're here! We hope you experience the warmth and welcome of Christ our Savior in this community.



If this is your first time visiting, please fill out a **Visitor's Card** (located in the pew in front of you) and place it in the offering basket later in the service. We would love to meet you and help you get connected.



This Order of Worship will be your guide to our service, and there are notes in the margins explaining the different elements of our liturgy.



Finally, if you would like to speak to someone who can answer any questions you may have about our church, please visit the **Welcome Desk**, which will be on your left after you exit the Sanctuary.

Liturgical Colors for Advent

A reformed view of worship involves all the senses. Churches often use various means to aid our worship through the senses. One such means is the use of color and light. The parament coverings on the pulpit and communion table reflect the liturgical calendar through color. The color purple is used during Advent, which symbolizes penitence, and is also used during Lent.

Liturgy Notes

Do you have questions about how we worship? This column answers the “what” and “why” of each element of our liturgy.

Call to Worship

The Call to Worship is traditionally the first element in a Christian liturgy, serving as the moment of consecration. God’s word is used to invite us into the sacred time of corporate worship, and we respond with our voices as an answer to His call.

Congregational Singing

A unique aspect of Christian worship is that we sing together. Our singing is an expression of love for God and joy in his gospel. Singing strong hymns grounded in the truths of our theology raises our eyes from awe of the created to awe of the Creator. Scripture commands us to sing. Beautiful voices are not required, but a community joining together to sing truth and to sing it with passion and conviction is beautiful to our God.

Invocation

The minister invokes the presence of God that is promised to those who gather in His name. We ask for God to join us in worship, to lead us in worship, and to be pleased with our worship.

Order of Worship

December 23, 2018 at 9:00 and 11:15AM

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Prelude *Ode to Joy to the World* (Arr. Schmidt, Nelson, Van Der Beek)

Call to Worship from Psalms 29, 63, 67

MINISTER:

May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

PEOPLE:

Then we will bless you as long as we live; in your name we lift up our voices.

MINISTER:

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us.

PEOPLE:

Let us bless our God; let the sound of his praise be heard from our lips.

Hymn of Rejoicing *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #218

Invocation

Welcome, Announcements, and Pastoral Prayer

Membership Vows

11:15 - Carolyn Barnum, Laura Barnum, Nancy Barnum

RENEW Receive the grace of God

Scripture Reading Isaiah 12 (Pew Bible p. 576)

Read by David Kent

LEADER:

All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field.
The grass withers and the flowers fall,

PEOPLE:

...but the Word of the Lord stands forever.

Confession of God's People

UNISON:

O promised Christ, with eager hearts we await your advent.

MINISTER:

We are filled with hatred and violence...

PEOPLE:

Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us love.

MINISTER:

We are filled with doubts and fear...

PEOPLE:

Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us peace.

MINISTER:

We are filled with griefs and sorrow...

PEOPLE:

Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us joy.

MINISTER:

We are filled with sins and shame...

PEOPLE:

Come, Lord Jesus, and grant us forgiveness.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

MINISTER:

Has Christ come?

PEOPLE:

He has.

MINISTER:

Will He come again?

PEOPLE:

He will.

MINISTER:

Will you repent of vain idols of empty joy and delight in Him alone?

PEOPLE:

We will.

Assurance of God's Pardon

 from Matthew 1:21

MINISTER:

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

Greeting of the Peace of Christ

Hymn of Renewal *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #201

Confession of God's People

In the Confession of Sin we humbly agree with Scripture's claim that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. This is the most honest moment of our week, as we confess our sin and shame together. We do this corporately through a unison litany or prayer and individually through a moment of silence for private confession.

Repentance of God's People

Our time of confession becomes a time of fresh commitment through corporate repentance. Together we boldly turn from all evil and offer our lives again to God. Only say these words if you are indeed willing to repent of your sins.

Assurance of God's Pardon

Confession and repentance is always met with the surety of God's grace. The minister proclaims to the penitent community words of pardon from Scripture, assuring our hearts of the grace that is already ours in Christ Jesus.

Greeting of Peace

We extend to others the grace that God has extended to us, greeting each other with the peace of Christ. In the midst of a fractured world filled with prejudice, hatred, and violence, we are a demonstration of God's reconciliation. Worshipers greeted one another with the words of Christ after His resurrection, which became the customary greeting of the early Church: "Peace be with you."

RESPOND Embrace the call of God

Confession of Faith

We confess together the convictional truths of orthodoxy by reciting the ancient creeds of our faith. We share these words with saints throughout the centuries as well as those throughout the world today. This also serves as a bold proclamation to the watching world of what we believe is true.

Confession of Faith from Westminster Shorter Catechism

MINISTER:

Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

PEOPLE:

The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.

MINISTER:

What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

PEOPLE:

The offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation

MINISTER:

How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?

PEOPLE:

In revealing to us, by his Word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

MINISTER:

How does Christ execute the office of a priest?

PEOPLE:

In his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God, and in making continual intercession for us.

MINISTER:

How does Christ execute the office of a king?

PEOPLE:

In subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.

Doxology Old Hundredth

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

Offertory Prayer

Offertory *Gloria Deo* (arr. Benjamin Harlan)

Gloria Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed; Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child. He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy. For He is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth He grew, He was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us He knew. Thus He feels for all our sadness, and He shares in all our gladness. And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love; for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above; and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone. *Gloria!*

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-11 (Pew Bible p. 857)

LEADER:

The Word of the Lord

PEOPLE:

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Rev. Robert Cunningham, Senior Minister

“Joy to the World”

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Please note:

We offer both wine and grape juice in Holy Communion: wine is in the outer ring of cups, and the grape juice is in the inner rings of cups. Also, gluten-free bread is offered at the center table.

Children's Blessing:

Children (of any age) who have not professed faith in Christ are encouraged to come forward with their parents to receive a blessing from the pastor or officer.

Words of Institution

MINISTER:

Let us together proclaim the hope of the Church:

UNISON:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ shall come again!

MINISTER:

I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after supper, he took the cup saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Offering

The offering is received, not merely as a way to pay the bills, but as an act of worship. In response to the God from whom all blessings flow, we give freely, joyfully, and sacrificially to His beloved bride, the Church.

Anthem

It is not just financial offerings that we give to God during this time but offerings of beauty as well. While the offering is collected, our choir offers up to God beautifully-composed music with text that meditates upon the truths of the gospel and the promises of God. God's gift of music (along with the work of his Spirit) helps us feel deeply and marvel at who he is, what he has done, and what he will do.

Sermon

The preaching of God's Word in the context of holy worship is the primary means of God's voice to His people. Our trust is not in the ability of the preacher, but in the promise that God, by His Spirit working in and through His word, is speaking to us in exceptional ways. Therefore, we open our minds and hearts to the uniquely formative power of ordained preaching.

Communion

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a holy ordinance, wherein Christ and his gospel are represented and applied to His people. Though the bread and wine are not literally the body and blood of Jesus, this meal is far more than a sentimental reminder. It is spiritual nourishment to our souls and a means of growth in His grace. Communion is the family meal of Christians, and all followers of Jesus who are in good standing with His Church are invited to partake.

Benediction

The minister raises His hands and pronounces God's benediction over the congregation, sending them forth with assurance from on high. Stretch forth your hands and open wide your hearts to receive the abundant blessings that are yours in Christ Jesus!

Prayer

Prayer is available after the service to anyone in need. The Elder on Call will be waiting by the communion table to pray with you.

Prayer Chain

Kathryn Lyon
KRL40502@aol.com

Janet Whitley
JJWhitley@twc.com

Holy Communion *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (arr. McDonald, Nelson, Schmidt)

Hymn of Response *Joy to the World* #195

Benediction

Postlude *Shepherds Came, Their Praises Bringing* (H. Walcha)



Today's Musicians

Deb Edean, piano
Rebecca Price, cello
Jane Ritter, organ
Suzanne Dovel, choir director

Weekly Information

Last Week's Attendance: 1,188

Rapid Run: 983
Downtown: 205

Today's Deacons on Duty:

Ralph Haddock
Tim Meador

Giving Report: For more info, visit tcpca.org/give

November Actual Giving: \$185,906
November Giving Goal: \$146,809

Difference: \$39,097

YTD Actual Giving (Oct-Nov): \$316,983
YTD Actual Expenses (Oct-Nov): \$319,417

Difference: -\$2,434

Calendar

Sunday, December 23

9:00 am, Worship of the Living God
10:20 am, No Sunday School or Nursery
11:15 am, Worship of the Living God
2:00 pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship
5:00 pm, TCPC Downtown Worship

Monday, December 24

OFFICE CLOSED
5:00pm, Christmas Eve Service
6:00 pm, Downtown Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday, December 30

9:00 am, Worship of the Living God
10:20 am, No Sunday School or Nursery
11:15 am, Worship of the Living God
2:00pm, Lafayette Place Seniors Worship
5:00 pm, TCPC Downtown Worship

Monday, December 31

11:00 am, Sandra Cowen Memorial Service

Future Events

Jan 6 - Congregational Meeting
(to vote on Downtown)
Jan 20 - Congregational Meeting
(normal annual meeting)

Announcements

Sandra Cowen Memorial Service

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you that our sister Sandra Cowen passed away Monday evening. There will be a memorial service at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 31, here in the Sanctuary.

Congregational Meetings in January

We will be calling two separate congregational meetings during the month of January. On January 6, we will hold a vote to approve the particularization of the Downtown campus (to become their own church); on January 20, we will hold our annual congregational meeting.

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule

December 23, and 30 - No Sunday School (including adult, children, and nursery)
January 6 - Congregational Meeting

Christmas Eve Service

Join us for our annual Christmas Eve service! We will gather together to celebrate our hope found within the beautiful mystery of Christ's birth. The service will begin at 5:00pm on December 24th.

Choir for Christmas Eve Service

Join the choir for our special anthem during the Christmas Eve service: youth, guests and visitors are welcome. Meet in the basement choir room at 4:30pm (before the Christmas Eve service) to rehearse and receive a few instructions. This is a lovely way to serve the church and visitors this Christmas season! Email csteyn@tcpca.org with any questions.

Year-End Giving

Please note that all 2018 gifts need to be turned in the office by December 31st, postdated by the 31st or given online by 11:59 pm on the 31st. If you plan on making a donation through the selling of stock, please allow extra time for processing during the holidays.

Office Hours

The TCPC office will be closed on December 24, 25 and January 1. Our office hours will be from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM on December 26, 27, 28, and 31.

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Phone: 859-272-4399 **Email:** office@tcpca.org

Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org