



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**, we would love to meet you and help you get connected. Please visit **tcpca.org/visitor** or scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone camera.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship...

Luke describes Jesus as Mary's firstborn son (Luke 2:7), but he was more than that! By the power of the Holy Spirit, the child in the virgin's womb was the very Son of God. He was "the firstborn of all creation" (Col. 1:15), with a unique status as God the one and only Son. He was the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He was the Creator of the universe, the Maker of heaven and earth. He was the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Supreme Ruler of all that lives. He was the Second Person of the Trinity, the only begotten Son, the radiance of the Father's glory. By his divine nature, he shared in the full perfection of God's triune being. This baby - born in Bethlehem - was the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-powerful, and all-glorious Son of God.

- Phil Ryken

COVER ARTWORK

December, Theodor Severin Kittelsen, 1890

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.

Order of Worship

December 27, 2020 at 9:00AM and 11:00AM

REJOICE Declare the praises of God

Prelude

Call to Worship

LEADER: Jesus is the true king. Do we believe that?

ALL: We do!

LEADER: He is King of the Jews. Do we believe that?

ALL: We do!

LEADER: He is King of Kings and Lord of lords. Do we believe that?

ALL: We do!

LEADER: Then, come let us bow before Him and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

Hymn of Rejoicing *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* (Sheet Music on Page 10)

Joseph Simpson Cook; Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM ©Public Domain

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth, wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven’s star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undefined, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, hail the King of glory!

Welcome & Announcements

Scripture Reading Psalm 19

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them He has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern His errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.
Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

All men are like grass, their glory like flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, **but the Word of the Lord stands forever.**

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.

Confession of God's People

UNISON: God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ You came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of Your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

- Silent Prayers of Confession -

Repentance of God's People

LEADER: Do you turn from your sin of not believing God is good at all times?

PEOPLE: We do.

LEADER: Do you repent from doubting God's ongoing faithfulness in your life?

PEOPLE: We do.

LEADER: Do you believe your God is for you and not against you?

PEOPLE: We do.

Assurance of God's Pardon from Romans 8:1-2

LEADER: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Hymn of Renewal *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Edmund Hamilton Sears | Richard Storrs Willis © Public Domain

It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold
Peace on the earth good will to men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

Still thro' the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on
By prophets seen of old.
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

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 Heidelberg Catechism Questions 35 & 36

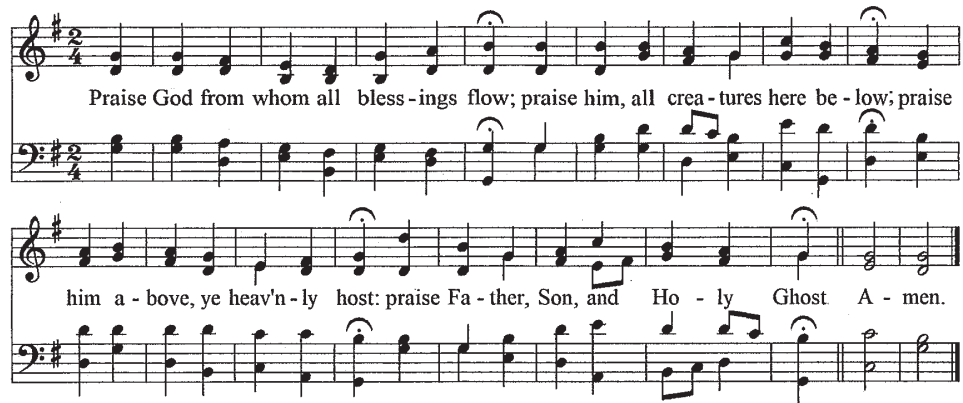
LEADER: What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?

PEOPLE: The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit.

LEADER: What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?

PEOPLE: He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness, covers, in the sight of God, my sin, in which I was conceived and born.

Doxology



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.

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.

Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading Matthew 6:9-13; Ephesians 6:16-18

9Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. **10**Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. **11**Give us this day our daily bread, **12**and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. **13**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

16In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; **17**and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, **18**praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

LEADER: The Word of the Lord. **PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

PLEASE NOTE:

Communion elements were passed out as you entered the Sanctuary. If you did not receive elements, please raise your hand and they will be brought to you. A gluten-free option is available as well.

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.

Profession of Faith

9:00 AM - Zoey Hogan

Holy Communion

Hymn of Response *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* (Sheet Music on Page 11)

Charles Wesley | Mark Hunt | Rowland Hugh Prichard ©Public Domain

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 earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

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

(continue on next page)

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.

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

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.

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

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!

Benediction

MINISTER: Go love your God;

PEOPLE: Go love your neighbor.



Prayer Chain

If you would like to share prayer requests with our church prayer chain, we would love to pray for you. Please feel free to send an email to:

Kathryn Lyon
KRL40502@aol.com

Janet Whitley
janetjwhitley@gmail.com

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

November Giving: \$213,308

November Goal: \$163,917

Difference: +\$49,391

Total FY Giving (Oct-Nov): \$371,419

Total FY Expenses (Oct-Nov): \$367,417

Difference: +\$4,002

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Joseph Simpson Cook

Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

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1. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
2. An - gels sang a - bout his birth, wise men sought and found him;
3. Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the Un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
heav - en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
he is still the Un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can ne be the Sav - ior?
Shep - herds saw the won - drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
Son of God of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ring - ing.
praise his name in all the earth, hail the King of glo - ry!

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley | Mark Hunt | Rowland Hugh Prichard

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1. Come Thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus born to set Thy
2. Joy to those who long to see Thee, Day - spring from on
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, He whose glo - ries
4. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and
peo - ple free. From our fears and sins re - lease us
high - ap - pear. Come thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se,
knew no end; By His life He brings us glad - ness,
yet a king. Born to reign in us for - ev - er,
let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and
of Thy birth we long to hear! O'er the hills the
our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend! Leav - ing rich - es
now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e -
con - so - la - tion hope of all the earth Thou art.
an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone.
Dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion
"Go to Him, your prais - es bring - ing;
This the ev - er - last - ing won - der,
By Thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it,
Joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
Christ the Lord has come to earth."
Christ was born the Lord of all.
raise us to Thy glo - rious Throne!

Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

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Learn more about our church online at tcpca.org