



Glendale Presbyterian Church



December 24, 2023 | 5 PM
Christmas Eve

Gather

Reformed worship is centered around the Word, both the Word of scripture and Christ as the Word Incarnate. In worship we gather around the Word, engage with the Word, and respond to the Word.

Bold text is read by the congregation.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.

You may access the online order of worship to follow along on any digital device:



In the presence of a holy God, we become aware of the ways we fall short of God's best hopes for us, and the ways we have hurt others. We turn to God in prayer, asking for forgiveness.

Passing of the Peace is one of the most ancient responses in worship. We invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

+ At this time children are invited to come forward to the front pew for conversation around our texts for the week.

Welcome & Announcements | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Prelude | Oh Holy Night | Carol Schmidt

*Call to Worship | Advent Wreath Lighting

*Hymn | Response to Advent Wreath Lighting | "Anthem" by Leonard Cohen

Ring the bells that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack, a crack in everything

That's how the light gets in, That's how the light gets in

Call to Confession | Liturgist

Prayer of Confession

This was going to be the year, God of silent nights, when we were going to give away more than we spent, but we didn't. This was going to be the season when we spent more time with others, but we filled our calendars with meetings. This was going to be the Christmas when we wrote personal letters to friends and family, but spent too much energy filling out our to-do lists. This was going to be a truly holy season, but it just got too harried and hurried. Forgive us, Love Gifter, and draw us closer to the Baby born not into wealth and power, but into poverty and weakness; to the One who loves unconditionally and welcomes all; to the Child who gathers other children to him, to bless them and serve them; to the One who drew near to us, so we might be drawn to your heart - Jesus Christ, our Brother, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

One: Into the valleys of our death, Jesus comes with life;

into the shadows of our world, Jesus brings light;

into the brokenness of our lives, Jesus brings forgiveness and peace.

All: Thanks be to God for the gift of the Baby of Bethlehem, who brings joy & peace to us in these moments of forgiveness & in all the days to come. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Anthem | What Child is This, Arr. Robert A. Hobby | Chancel Choir

Proclaim God's Word

Prayer for Illumination | Liturgist

+Opening the Word with Young Disciples | Christmas is Coming by Tama Fortner, illustrated by Wazza Pink | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

*Hymn | GTG #115 | "Away in a Manger"

Scripture | Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20

115

Away in a Manger

Capo 3: (D) F (G) B \flat (D) F

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

(A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

(G) B \flat (D) F

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

(A7) C7 (D) F (Em) Gm (A7) C7 (D) F

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Though erroneously attributed to Martin Luther, this anonymous carol has North American roots, probably originating among Pennsylvania Lutherans. Although more than forty melodies have been connected with these words, this tune was among the earliest written for them.

Respond to God's Word

Anthem | Go Tell it on the Mountain, Arr. Robert A. Hobby | Chancel Choir

*Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Words of Offering | Liturgist

Prayer of Dedication | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: May the God of silent nights be with you!

All: May the God of herald angels be with you!

One: Open your hearts to the One born in the little town of Bethlehem.

All: May Emmanuel come to abide in our hearts.

One: Join all believers in singing of our joy this night.

All: May our voices blend with those of the angels and shepherds.

One: You crept into chaos so long ago,...we sing praises to you this Christmas night:

All: We will not be afraid, for great joy is ours this night;

we will look for the signs of your presence, grace swaddled in hope, love wrapped around broken hearts.

One: Glory to you, God in the highest heavens! ...we proclaim that mystery called incarnation:

All: Christ is our light, and we will join the angels in singing the good news;

Christ is our life, and we will join the disciples in telling the Story;

Christ is our promise, and we wait for the joy of his return.

One: Here in the silence and the singing, ...God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Communion of the People

*Doxology | GTG #133, v. 1 | "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Prayers of the People | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

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. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn | GTG #122 | "Silent Night"

*Blessing and Benediction | New Zealand Prayer Book | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Postlude | GTG #134 | Joy to the World | Carol Schmidt

Some Liturgies come from Thom M. Shuman's Lectionary Liturgies:

<http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Passing of the Peace from Lisa's Liturgies, Greeting of Peace

Prayers of the People from <https://worldinprayer.org/>

The Apostles' Creed from the ancient church comes as close as any other confessional statements to expressing the faith of all Christians, of all traditions, throughout church history.

Tithes and offerings may be left in the offering plate. Those who prefer to donate electronically are invited to donate through our church website:



For communion, ushers will invite each pew, starting in the back of the sanctuary, to come forward to receive the elements. It is our practice to take the elements back to our seats, and eat and drink together after all have been served. If you are unable to come forward, the elements will be brought to you where you are seated.

Our congregation has a practice of staying seated for the duration of the postlude.

Our worship does not end with the postlude, but continues out into the world, where we are sent to love and care for God's people.

O Come, All Ye Faithful 133

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain

born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

From its Roman Catholic origins, this 18th-century hymn has spread to worldwide use by many denominations in both Latin and vernacular versions. Once popular with a wide range of hymn texts, this tune is now firmly associated with this Christmas text from which it is named.

Silent Night, Holy Night! 122

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;

'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu - ra -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

GERMAN

1 *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!*
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!

KOREAN

1 고요한밤 거룩한밤
 어둠에 묻힌밤
 주의부모 앉아서
 감사기도 드릴때
 아기잘도 잔다
 아기잘도 잔다

SPANISH

1 *¡Noche de paz, noche de amor!*
Todo duerme en derredor,
entre los astros que esparcen su luz,
bella, anunciando al niño Jesús,
brilla la estrella de paz,
brilla la estrella de paz.

The tradition that this carol's tune was created for guitar accompaniment at its first singing on Christmas Eve 1818 seems reliable, though a recent find shows that the text was about two years old. But there is no question that this is now a favorite Christmas carol worldwide.

134

Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

While Isaac Watts did not write this text strictly for Christmas use, he did purposely cast his paraphrase of Psalm 98:4-9 in Christian terms, titling it "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." So "the Lord" here is Jesus Christ, rather than the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.



Poinsettias



Contributions made by:

Elaine & Bob Bidstrup in memory of loved ones

Carol Cook in honor of the GPC Family, and in memory of Makala Fritz and Beverly Fritz

Beth Ford in memory of parents, Clyde and Nettie Ford

Chuck & Susan Niesen for the blessings of family

Deb Rose in memory of Bill & Maggie Bauer, Jessica, and in honor of friends and family

Leslen Sanders to the Glory of God

Randy and Hae Jeong Schroeder with prayers for Randy's brother Buddy

Vicki Sorrells to the Glory of God

Prayer Requests

Healing and Wholeness

Prayers for Jay Kanerva, recovering from a heart ablation procedure.

Prayers for Julie Tighe who lost her friend, Mike, to cancer.

Continued prayers for Randy's brother, Buddy, as he participates in a clinical trial to treat brain cancer.

Continued prayers for Joan's granddaughter, Ellen, and for her Aunt Joan.

Announcements

Have a question about an event? An announcement to share? Contact the church office at 314-822-2545 or by e-mail to glendalepres@gmail.com

Webster-Rock Hill Ministries

Thank you to all who contributed gifts to serve the families of Webster-Rock Hill Ministries for Christmas.

Memorial Service for Gerry Virgil

Saturday, January 6, 2024, 11:00 am
in Graham Chapel at Washington University

Vacation Next Week for Pastor Kathleen

Pastor Kathleen will be gone next week, returning to the office on Tuesday, January 2nd. Rev. Carol DeVaughan will be leading worship for GPC on December 31st.

Session Reminder

Saturday, January 6, 3-6 pm
Officer training for the 2024 Session

Welcome

Welcome to Glendale Presbyterian Church! We are glad to have you join us for worship. If you are new to GPC, it is our prayer that you will experience the presence of God while you are here. At GPC, we share God's love through our work and play in our church and community.

Children & Worship

Children are always welcome in worship. The "Prayer Ground" is located in the front of the sanctuary where children are welcome to sit as is most comfortable to them and to engage with the materials up there throughout the service. In addition, the nursery is available for use by small children and their grown-ups near the Parking Lot Entry to the church. During the school year, children are invited to attend Sunday School following "Opening the Word with Young Disciples."

Worship Bags

All ages are invited to pick up a GPC worship bag in the Narthex (back of the sanctuary) that has items to be utilized to enhance their worship experience.

New Members

New members are received by the Session. If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to join the GPC family. Please contact Pastor Kathleen at 314-944-3334 or pastorhenrion@gmail.com for further information.

Prayer Request Cards

Blue prayer request cards are available upon entry to the building, as well as in pews. Please use them to note any joys or concerns you wish to have lifted in prayer. Place your prayer request card in the basket at either entrance to the Sanctuary before worship begins. If you need to fill it out during the beginning of worship, feel free to drop your prayer requests in the basket during the first hymn. The cards will be shared with the congregation, in worship, on the video of worship, and in the newsletter unless otherwise requested on the card.

Pastoral Care

To notify the church of illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths; or to pass along a prayer request; or to arrange for Home Communion, Please contact the church office at 314-822-2545 or by e-mail to glendalepres@gmail.com or you are welcome to contact Kathleen directly via call or text at 314-944-3334. Or by email at pastorhenrion@gmail.com

Serving the Church

Interested in serving the church in some way? Contact the church office at 314-822-2545 or by e-mail to glendalepres@gmail.com and we'd love to connect you.

Sunday, December 24, 2023, 5pm

Liturgist | Katie Niesen Cook
Song Leader | Katie Niesen Cook
Usher | Jan Nolen, Kathy Foresman
Greeter | Caroline Chamberlin
Online Host | Matt Krob
Counter | Peggy Mayfield
Communion | Katie Niesen Cook
Music Director | Carol Schmidt
Pastor | Rev. Kathleen Henrion

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Liturgist | Peggy Mayfield
Song Leader | Peggy Mayfield
Usher | Debbie Rose
Greeter | Jan Nolen
Online Host | Katie Niesen Cook
Fellowship | Clarice Fleming
Counter | Peggy Mayfield
Music Director | Carol Schmidt
Guest Pastor | Rev. Carol DeVaughan



Glendale Presbyterian Church

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Glendale Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy (glpby.org), the Synod of Mid America (synodma.org), and the Presbyterian Church (USA) (pcusa.org). We are members of the Covenant Network, which is working toward a fully inclusive church.