



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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ROANOKE RAPIDS, NORTH CAROLINA

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SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY

DECEMBER 27, 2020

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

ORGAN PRELUDE

(Please use the prelude as a time to quietly prepare for worship)

CHIMING OF THE LORD'S DAY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Come, let us sing God's praise with creation!

All: Praise God, sun and moon!

All: Praise God, shining stars!

One: Come, let us sing with Simeon and Anna!

All: Our eyes have seen salvation,

All: God's gift for all people!

One: Come let us sing God's praise together

All: and worship the Christ-child born for us!

OPENING PRAYER

One: Loving God, in your child Jesus Christ our eyes have truly seen your glory and the wonder of your saving power. By your Spirit, send us out in peace—proclaiming good news to all people, sharing the light of your revelation, growing in strength and in wisdom, and worshiping you night and day; through Christ, your promised Word.

All: Amen.

HYMN 132

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

page 8

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, in Christ you were born a humble child, love-made-flesh,

God-with-us. Forgive us when we fail to follow in your way of humility, love, and peace. Free us to see your Light reflecting in the faces of friends and family, neighbors and strangers, enemies and friends, and make us shine forth with your love.

TIME FOR SILENCE

(We ask for forgiveness for our individual faults)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This

child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God**

THE WORD IN MUSIC

SERMON

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

- Adapted from the Confession of 1967, (BOC 9.19)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Rejoicing in the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior, we pray for this world that God so loves, saying:

Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: **hear our prayer.**

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for the church . . . Help us to worship and praise you with sun, moon, and stars; wild animals and sea monsters; creatures that fly and creep—all giving thanks together for your overflowing gifts of grace.

Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for the world . . . Bring peace and healing to the cities and countries that have been torn apart, again and again, by violence and despair.
Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for this community . . . Fill our lives with your compassion, that we may be an outpouring of love for all people, helping them to know how deeply you care for them.
Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: With gratitude for your love, we pray for loved ones . . . As we have received such grace from you, may we share that grace with others. Even in us, let them see your face and know your care.
Emmanuel, God-with-us,

All: hear our prayer.

One: Holy One, as you have come to dwell among us, show us how to live as your faithful people, sharing the good news of your grace with all; through Christ, your Word made flesh, and who taught us to pray, Our Father . . .

LORD'S PRAYER

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

HYMN 134

Joy to the World

page 9

CHARGE

BLESSING

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are live streaming the worship services via Facebook and Youtube. We plan to continue to use both media platforms. The links to the service can be found on the Church's website or by using Facebook (FPC Roanoke Rapids) or Youtube (Search: First Presbyterian Church, Roanoke Rapids).

Offerings can be made by mailing your checks to the church at 16 East 5th Street, RR, NC 27870 or placing them in the letter slot in the Administration Building. Although the church is not open physically, the work of the church continues, so please remember your offerings.

Prayers for Healing of Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks

Bill Howell

Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels

Sally Ray Warren

David and LaNae Grimes

Sandra Stephenson

Mary Francis Fisher

Harrison West

Ellen Burnett

Diane Bone

Eula Cutler

B.T. Brown

Doug Hayes

Bill Davis

Betsy Medlin

Linda Ray

Roger Fuester

Jeff Peedin

Frank Lonesky

Dee Campbell

Nancy Elias

Diana and Jeff Dillard

Carolyn Keeter

Matt and Kelly Small, loss of baby boy Luke

Dennis Gaylor, surgery

Darlene Kassner

Bobbie Scott, broken hip

Cheryl Wingfield, knee replacement

Marie Anderson, recovery from hip replacement

Mary Braswell Kiger, gall bladder surgery

Concerns Outside of our Community

*SYRIA and YEMEN

*SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy

*EGYPT and LIBYA, political unrest

*ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA peaceful
coexistence

*IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security

*USA, war in Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan

*NIGERIA, abducted Chibok school girls

*Ukrainian people victimized by foreign
aggression

*People of Sudan

*Victims of gun violence in our country

*People who are effected by Covid-19



Please take a look at our prayer list. If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or someone that needs to come off, please contact Tammy at firstpresbyterianchurchrr@gmail.com or call me at home (586-1818).

132 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Carols using two languages, like this one dating from at least the 14th century, belong to a special group called "macaronic," the original languages here being German and Latin. Though the present version is only in English, it is sung to the traditional German folk melody.

TEXT: Medieval Latin; trans. and para. John Mason Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German folk melody, 14th cent.; harm. David Hugh Jones, 1953
 Music Harm. © 1955, ren. 1983 John Ribble (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

IN DULCI JUBILO
 6.6.7.7.8.5.5

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.

TEXT: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742; arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

ANTIÖCH
 CM with repeat
 (alternate tune: RICHMOND, 266)