

First Presbyterian Church of Springfield
Order of Worship for the First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020 at 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

Organist: Mike Belote

Worship Leader: Linda Thomas

Welcome

We Approach God

Call to Worship

Hope has come, awakening us to new possibilities.

Peace has come, inviting us to be agents of reconciliation.

Joy has come, turning our hearts from fear to wonder.

**Love has come, transforming our lives, transforming the world. We are amazed
by your grace as we worship the newborn King.**

Prayer of the Day

**Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was presented in the temple and
acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations. Grant that in him we
may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory. We pray
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Call to Confession

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting
in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, you call us to testify to the light of Christ which enlightens everyone,
but sometimes we hide in the shadows and shrink from bearing witness to the
light. Yet, even now, you dwell among us, full of grace and truth. Empower us
by your Spirit to embody your love and embrace your hope. Long after the
wreaths and ribbons are packed away, remind us that your light still shines in
the darkness. Sustain our joy, surround us with peace, and inspire us to bear
witness to your abundant grace and enduring truth. We pray this for the sake
of Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn

“Joy to the World”

Glory to God 134

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns Let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glorious of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

God Speaks to Us Through God’s Word**Prayer for Illumination**

Gracious God, by the gift of your Holy Spirit, help us to receive the Word made flesh—good news of great joy for all people—so that we may sing with the angels: glory to God in the highest heaven and peace among people on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 49:1 – 13

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

Moment with Young Disciples**New Testament Lesson**

Luke 2:21 – 38

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

“Pondering the Mysteries with Mary”

The Rev. Dr. Rosanna Anderson

We Respond to God’s Word**Hymn**

“Silent Night”

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed 1.1 - 1.3

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

Invitation to the Offering

From the fullness of God we have all received grace upon grace. Let us offer our lives to the Lord (John 1:16).

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

Gracious God, thank you for the greatest gift, salvation in Jesus Christ. In him we find abiding joy. As we dedicate our offerings, we devote ourselves to your service. Send your Spirit to help us grow in wisdom in the light of the miracle of Christmas. Thank you for giving us opportunities to bring tidings of joy to our neighbors through the ministries of this congregation in Jesus' name. Amen.

God Sends Us into the World

Hymn of Dedication

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

Glory to God 136

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Invitation to Discipleship and Benediction

Dr. Anderson