



Merry  Christmas

Sunday Service of Worship
Christmas Day
December 25, 2011 12:00 p.m.

CHIMES

Bill D'Andrea

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Glory to you, almighty God, for you sent your only-begotten Son, that we might have new life. Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ, for you became flesh and dwelt among us that we might become your people. Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you direct and rule our lives. Glory to you, almighty God, and to your Son, Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

PRELUDE

Sweet, Holy Child

Arr. Marilyn Ham

(Sweet Little Jesus Boy with Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

BRINGING IN THE LIGHT

Acolytes Caroline Prentiss and Brittany Boccia

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Fred Woodward

Please fill out "Ritual of Friendship & "Concerns of Our Church Family"

PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 91

O Come, All Yet Faithful

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 98)

Elder Meg Lawrence

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.

People: **The LORD has made his salvation known, and revealed his righteousness to the nations.**

Leader: He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: **Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song and music. For the LORD comes to judge the world in righteousness and the people with equity.**

All: **Let us worship God.**

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

People: **Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!**

Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: renew our lives by your presence.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of creation:
release all into your promised freedom.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: may
your church be a sign of hope and joy.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their
expectations: fulfill our desires in you.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all
ages, Prince of Peace: may the whole world live in peace and justice.

People: Lord, have mercy.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Fred Woodward

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the
darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted the 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.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONSE

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the
beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 52:7-10

pg. 771, lg. print pg. 1144

Elder Meg Lawrence

HYMN No. 107

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

ANTHEM *And the Glory of the Lord*, G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir

RESPONSE***Doxology***

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above the heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Elder Meg Lawrence

GOSPEL READING**John 1:1-18****pg. 1109, lg. print pg. 1645**

Pastor Fred Woodward

SERMON The True Meaning of Christmas (The Three 'R's of the Incarnation)

Pastor Fred Woodward

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Elder Roger Kaufmann

Worshippers briefly share joys and concerns as part of their offering to God of their prayers of supplication, intercession, and thanksgiving.

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Fred Woodward

THE 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, the power, and the glory—forever. Amen

CLOSING HYMN No. 92***Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*****CHALLENGE AND BLESSING*****SINGING OUR HOPE****Edelweiss****Come, O Lord, be with us.****Fill us with joy and thanksgiving.****May our hearts flow with peace.****Come with your love and surround us.****Friendship and peace, may they bloom and grow.****Bloom and grow forever.****Bless us now, bless our friends****Bless all your people forever.****POSTLUDE *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Cantus Diversi, 18th Century**

Arr. Teresa Wilhmi

Some of the prayers for this service of worship have been drawn from *Book of Common Worship*, which was prepared for the PC(USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (1993).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Service of Worship

December 25, 2011 12 pm

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