



ST. PAUL'S
PRESBYTERIAN

For The Glory of God & The Joy of All Peoples

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

On the Lord's Day Morning
First Sunday of Christmas
December 31, 2023, at 10:30



To all who are weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire hope; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and yearn for fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whoever will come—this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

*“Welcome one another as
Christ has welcomed you, for
the glory of God”
(Romans 15:7).*

Welcome

Prelude

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
CHRISTMAS

Call to Worship

From Psalm 100

*To exalt the name of the LORD
in worship is to hold God in
our highest esteem, to give God
praise and honor that comes
from our hearts.*

Minister: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!

People: Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Minister: Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

† congregation standing

✠ congregation kneeling

ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

† Hymn of Proclamation

Hymn A • Trinity Hymnal #198

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

The Lord is "enthroned on the praises" of his people (Psalm 22:3).

† Prayer of Adoration

Unison: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

† Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 25

Pew Bible, page 586

Minister: The Word of the Lord!

People: Thanks be to God!

"Devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture" (1 Timothy 4:13).

✠ Prayer of Confession

Unison: O God beyond all praising, there is no God like you. With you is the fountain of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore. But we have hungered after that which does not satisfy and preferred many things to you, the Giver of all things. Father forgive us for our weak and sinful desires, and fill us with your Spirit that we might be increasingly conformed into the image of your crucified and risen Son, in whose great name we pray. Amen.

"If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

Please take a moment to silently confess your sin.

*In the Assurance of Pardon, tired
and weary sinners are comforted
with the good news of God's grace
and forgiveness.*

✠ Assurance of Pardon

From Romans 8

Minister: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? To you who repent of your sin, and look in faith to Jesus for mercy, I declare your sins are forgiven in Jesus' name.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Prayer



† Hymn of Consecration

Hymn B • Trinity Hymnal #226

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

† Affirmation of Faith

The Westminster Confession of Faith

Chapter 8, Section 2

Unison: The Son of God, the second person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. So that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures, the Godhead and the manhood, were inseparably joined together in one person, without conversion, composition, or confusion. Which person is very God, and very man, yet one Christ, the only Mediator between God and man.

Unison: Thanks be to God!

† Gloria #735

GREATOREX

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the
Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be -
gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out
end. A - men, a - men.

Children are welcome for our entire service. Following the Gloria, a specifically designed time for children aged four through first grade is also provided. Those interested can meet at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

† Gospel Lesson

Luke 2:22-40

Pew Bible, page 857

Minister: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Unison: Thanks be to the Lord!

Prayer for Illumination

Proclamation of God's Word

Rev. Mike Glodo

ADVENT ACCORDING TO LUKE:

The Wondrous Work of Waiting

This prayer is a plea that God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," would open our eyes to the light of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

RESPONDING IN THANKS

† Hymn of Response

Hymn C • Trinity Hymnal #233

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

Alt. Tune: ST. ANNE

*"Do not lay up for yourselves
treasures on earth... but lay
up for yourselves treasures in
heaven..." (Matthew 6:19-20)*

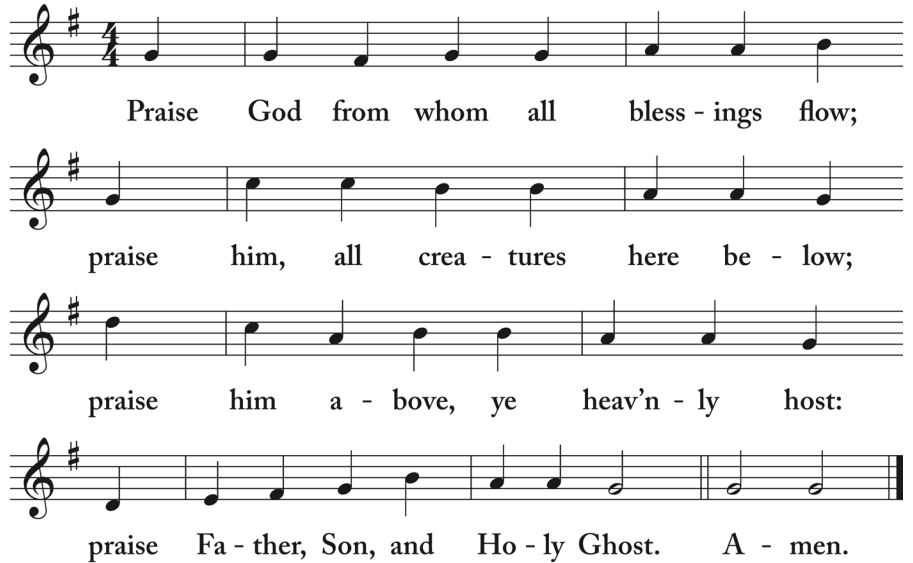
Giving to God & Offertory

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

PICARDY

† Doxology #732

TALLIS' CANON



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.

To give online, visit
www.stpaulsorlando.com/give.

† Prayer of Dedication

† Benediction

† Sending Forth Hymn

Hymn D

Nunc Dimittis

The word "benediction" means blessing. With God's blessing upon us, we are sent forth to practice the faith we profess.



Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your word is
This is the Sa - vior of the world, the Gen - tiles'



now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwel - ling



va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.

Welcome visitors! If you are visiting St. Paul's today, we are so glad you have joined us for worship! We would love to get to know you. Email staff@stpaulsorlando.com to let us know your name, contact information, how you heard about St. Paul's, and any questions you may have. Please feel free to introduce yourself to our pastors or ushers.

Minister: Go in peace to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Please take a moment to greet those around you.

Joy to the World!
ANTIOCH

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

*Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory
may come in. Ps. 24:7*

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

5. Redeemer, come! I open wide
 my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
 Let me thy inner presence feel;
 thy grace and love in me reveal.

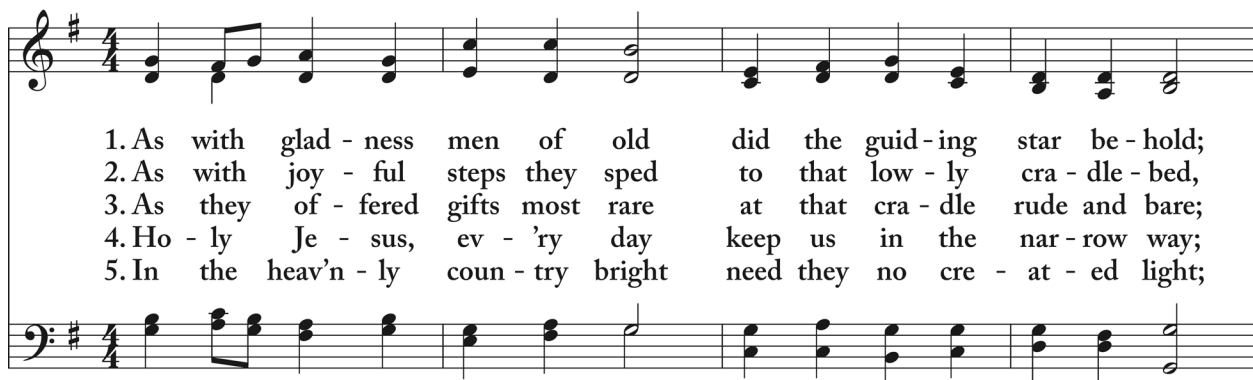
6. So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
 Let new and nobler life begin!
 Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
 until the glorious crown be won.

Based on Psalm 24
 Georg Weissel, 1642
 Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.

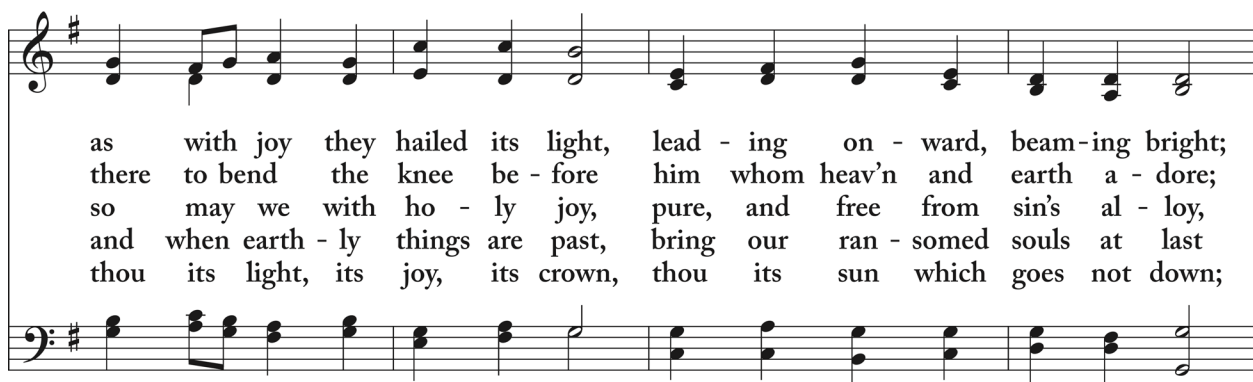
TRURO L.M.
Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789

As with Gladness Men of Old

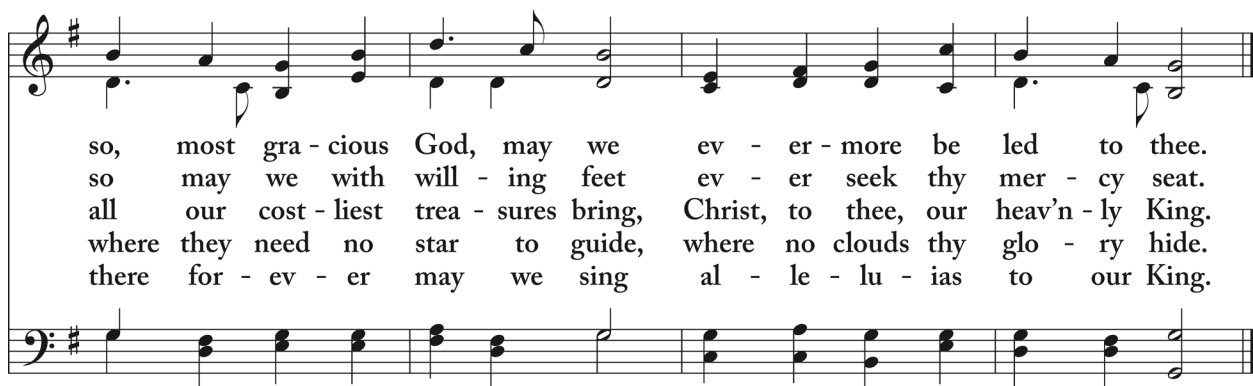
When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. Matt. 2:10



1. As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly cra - dle - bed,
 3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that cra - dle rude and bare;
 4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day keep us in the nar - row way;
 5. In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright need they no cre - at - ed light;



as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heav'n and earth a - dore;
 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure, and free from sin's al - loy,
 and when earth - ly things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last
 thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;



so, most gra - cious God, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek thy mer - cy seat.
 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to thee, our heav'n - ly King.
 where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glo - ry hide.
 there for - ev - er may we sing al - le - lu - ias to our King.

To Us a Child of Hope Is Born

To us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

Is. 9:6



1. To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,
 2. His name shall be the Prince of Peace, for - ev - er - more a - dored,
 3. His pow'r, in - creas - ing, still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;
 4. To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is giv'n,



him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, him all the hosts of heav'n.
 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the great and might - y Lord.
 jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.
 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the might - y Lord of heav'n.



The Wondrous Work of Waiting

Luke 2:22-40 | Rev. Mike Glodo

i. The reward of waiting

ii. The work of waiting

iii. The witness of waiting

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

Use this plan for your daily Bible reading.

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| • Sunday, December 31 | Revelation 22:6-21 • John 21 • Psalm 150 |
| • Monday, January 1 | Genesis 1 • Matthew 1 • Psalm 1 |
| • Tuesday, January 2 | Genesis 2 • Psalm 2 |
| • Wednesday, January 3 | Genesis 3-4 • Psalm 3 |
| • Thursday, January 4 | Genesis 5 • Matthew 2 • Psalm 4 |
| • Friday, January 5 | Genesis 6-7 • Psalm 5 |
| • Saturday, January 6 | Genesis 8 • Matthew 3 • Psalm 6 |
| • Sunday, January 7 | <i>Catch Up</i> |

WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use these questions to reflect more deeply on this week's sermon.

1. Why do we still need to wait since Simeon and Anna saw what God promised?
2. What are the two things that made Simeon and Anna's waiting "wondrous?"
3. How does our attitude toward waiting sometimes reveal a "practical atheism?"
4. What are the "two enemies of waiting?" Are you prone toward one or the other or both?
5. How can we make waiting more of a part of our Christian lives?

MONTHLY SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

ABOUT WORSHIP

In his encounter with the woman of Samaria, Jesus explained that “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The reason Jesus says true worshipers must worship in this way is because God himself “is spirit.” Here we discover the simple yet profound principle that true worship is a response to God as he has personally revealed himself. Thus, conformity to God’s character is the key to true worship. “Great is the LORD,” as the psalmist puts it, “and greatly to be praised” (Psalm 48:1)! In worship, we seek to reflect this divine reality, declaring with our lips and demonstrating with our lives that God is supremely precious and therefore worthy of all glory and honor and praise.

THE SHAPE OF WORSHIP



Entering God’s Presence—We gather in response to God’s call to worship, joyfully offering praise to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With reverence and awe, we confess our sins and receive God’s forgiveness, which is declared in Jesus’ name.



Renewing Our Faith—Worship continues with a focus on God’s Word. Our faith is renewed as we publicly confess the truth of God, join our hearts and voices in prayers and hymns of praise to God, and hear the good news of God powerfully proclaimed.



Responding in Thanks—As hearing becomes doing, we respond to the proclamation of God’s Word. Songs of praise continue to be raised and the gifts and offerings of God’s people are collected. On Communion Sundays we are invited to celebrate the Lord’s Supper. With God’s blessing upon us, we are sent into the world to love and serve the risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Why Do We Worship in This Way?

In this section, we answer a question about worship each week.

Question: Why are we asked to stand and kneel at various times in worship?

Answer: Body language is powerful, and God’s Word frequently commands us to use our bodies to communicate the disposition of our hearts in worship. “Oh come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!” (Psalm 95:6)

WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted you have joined us for worship. Our hope is that you find our worship service glorifying to God and personally refreshing.

We would love to connect with you. Please stop by our New Visitor Table in the Narthex after the service so that we may greet you in person and provide you a *Welcome Bag*. To connect with us, please use the QR code below to fill out a *Connect Card*.

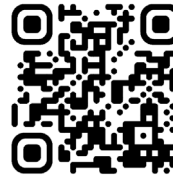
*Use your phone's camera to quickly access the following resources
or navigate to the URL below each QR code.*



CONNECT CARD
stpaulsorlando.com/connect



CHURCH APP
stpaulsorlando.com/app



GIVE ONLINE
stpaulsorlando.com/give

Our Vision

To see the invisible kingdom of heaven made visible,
for the glory of God and the joy of all peoples.

Our Mission

To grow in grace and give away our lives
in the following seven major ministry areas:

Worship that exalts God in Christ and promotes unity in the Spirit

Discipleship that is rooted in the Scriptures and centered in the gospel

Community that is characterized by discipleship and care for one another

Local Missions that promotes the common good and evangelizes the lost

Global Missions that participates in church planting and spreading the gospel
to the ends of the earth

Children's Ministry that partners with parents to build children up in the
faith through loving care and Reformed biblical teaching

Youth Ministry that promotes maturity, joy, and identity in Christ

ST. PAUL'S

PRESBYTERIAN

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