



FOUNTAIN CITY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS
EVE

DECEMBER 24 | 5:30 P.M.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Susan Balfour

*HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Glory to God Hymnal

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Holland Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Luke 2:10-15

Carl Snow

Liturgist: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy.

All: To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Liturgist: This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Liturgist: Let us go now to Bethlehem.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

from Luke 2:1-20

Carl Snow

Liturgist: Let us pray:

All: Living God, on this holy night we gather to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.

*HYMN 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Glory to God Hymnal

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

Carl Snow

Please sign and pass the friendship register located on the center aisle under the pew in front.

CALL TO CONFESSION

From Titus 2:11

Carl Snow

Liturgist: In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come. Yet we cling to the glories of the present age, worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

from Luke 2:10, 14

The Rev. Susan Balfour

Minister: Hear this good news of great joy: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!

Minister: Glory to God in the highest,

All: and peace to God's people on earth.

*GLORIA PATRI 582

Glory to God Hymnal

All: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Carl Snow

Liturgist: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

ANTHEM SOLO

O Holy Night

Evelyn Spencer, Soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

from Luke 2:19

The Rev. Susan Balfour

Minister: Let us pray:

All: Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

Minister: The Word of the Lord

Titus 2:11-14

All: Thanks be to God

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

SERMON

The Rev. Susan Balfour

*HYMN 145

What Child Is This

Glory to God Hymnal

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

The Rev. Susan Balfour

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Book of Common Worship (p.387)

Minister: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Minister: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks a praise...Therefore we praise you joining our voices with angels and archangels, with prophets, apostles and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Minister: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our host and our guest at this table...With thanksgiving, we take this bread and this wine, gifts of the earth through which you bless us, and we offer ourselves in your service. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Minister: Pour out your Holy spirit upon us, O God, and upon these gifts of fruit and grain, that we may taste your goodness, see your presence, and become one with you and your body. Gathered at your table, we join all your saints who have gone on before us and remember them now before you. In life and death, we belong to you, our Alpha and Omega. All thanks and praise to you, O God, Holy Three-in-One, now and forever.

All: Amen.

***HYMN 88**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Glory to God Hymnal

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The Rev. Susan Balfour

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ecumenical Version

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, and we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN 128**

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Glory to God Hymnal

JOY GIFT OFFERING

from Psalm 96:8-9

Carl Snow

Liturgist: Ascribe to the Lord the glory that is due; bring an offering, and come into God's house. Worship the Lord in holy splendor; tremble before God, all the earth.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY 609**

Glory to God Hymnal

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

The Rev. Susan Balfour

Minister: Let us pray:

All: We give you thanks, Holy One, for the world of wonder you have made forest and field, sea and sky, and for the gift of grace that you have given a little child, lying in a manger. Receive these gifts of tenderness and love, of gratitude and praise, and use them for your glory; in the name of Jesus Christ, the child of Bethlehem, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN 122**

Silent Night

Glory to God Hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Susan Balfour

***HYMN 134**

Joy to the World

Glory to God Hymnal

POSTLUDE

Liturgy reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word Worship Companion. ©2013