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Trusting that All Belong to God. Living Like We Belong to One Another.

DECEMBER 21, 2025 11 A.M. Fourth Sunday of Advent Christmas Music Sunday

GATHERING

PRELUDE

The Manger from CHRISTMAS FANTASIA

Gary Fry

Commissioned by Steven Johnan for his beloved friend and colleague, Bradley Hunter Welch, Organist/Artist-in-Residence of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas, and Resident Organist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Christmas 2022

WELCOME & INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Please check in by signing the register found in the pew or by scanning this code with your phone.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Please greet one another with "The peace of Christ be with you" or "And also with you."



INTROIT

Noe! Noe!

arr. Mack Wilberg

The Sanctuary Choir

Shepherds, rise, look up and see new light yonder breaking, Brighter than the noonday sun, all your sheep awaking. Wonder, whisper, "ah, Noe!" Christ is born this holy day!

REFRAIN: He is come to you, lowly shepherds, true! He is come unto you, Morning Star and New Day! Wonder, whisper, "Ah Noe!"

Shepherds, turn your eyes and see in the manger, sleeping, Prince of Peace and Heav'nly King, in His mother's keeping. Worship Him who brings Noe –He who turns the night to day! REFRAIN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Susan & Mark Rahe, Katie and Vivian

One: God loves us, for God is love.

All: May love burn bright this morning.

One: Igniting in us the Spirit of God.
All: Let love illuminate our lives.

*HYMN 119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

Setting by David Willcocks

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Emmanuel, God with us, you came into this broken world. Yet you did not fall into the traps of bitterness, resentment, or hate. Instead, you overcame this world by the power of your love, and you invite us to do the same. We have not loved as you have called us. We have fallen far short. Redeem us O Lord. Fill us with your Spirit so that we may love each other as you have loved us. Amen.

*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

One: Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: We are saved by grace through faith. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

^{*}Please rise in body or in spirit

RESPONSE

And the Glory of the Lord from Messiah

G. F. Handel

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. – Isaiah 40:5

PROCLAIMING

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Carol of the Children

John Rutter

One for the star in the sky over Bethlehem
Two for the hands that will rock him to sleep
Three for the kings bringing gold, bringing myrrh, bringing incense
Four for the angels that watch over his bedside.

(And one for the heart that I give as my off'ring to Jesus.)

Blue for the robe of the sweet Virgin Mary
White for the dawn of the first Christmas Day
Red for the blood that he shed for us all on Good Friday
Black for the tomb where he rested till Easter

Lullaby see Jesus asleep, Angels and shepherds their watch on him keep Lullaby he soon will awake, For the oxen are stirring and morning will break.

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 98:4-9

THE WORD IN MUSIC

Ecce Novum
The Sanctuary Choir

Ola Gjeilo

Ecce, novum gaudium Behold, a new joy

Ecce, novum mirum

Behold, a new wonder

Virgo parit filium

A virgin, who knew not a man

Ouae non novit virum Bears a son

Sed ut pirus prium

Gleba fert papyrum

Florens lilium

As the pear tree bears the pear

The flourishing papyrus

Brings the lily from the soil

Ecce, quod natura

Mutat sua iura

Virgo parit pura

Dei filium

See how nature

Changes her laws

A pure virgin bears

The son of God

RESPONDING

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Of the Father's Love Begotten Hymn 108 (Verses 1-4) DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

To give online, please visit www.phpc.org/give, scan the QR code, or text "PHPC" to 73256. All \$1 bills and all coins will be included in our 'Every Dollar Counts' offering, benefiting Project Unity. To learn more about EDC, visit phpc.org/impact.



OFFERTORY Carol of the Wise Men arr. Fred Gramann

The Sanctuary Ringers

*DOXOLOGY VENI EMMANUEL

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN 147 The First Nowell THE FIRST NOWELL

(Stanzas 1, 2, and 6) Setting by David Willcocks

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE Angels We Have Heard on High arr. Dan Forrest

*POSTLUDE Postlude on MENDELSSOHN David Willcocks

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Matthew Ruffner, Rev. Caroline Grindrod, and Rev. Elizabeth Snyder are the liturgists. The organist is Artist-in-Residence Bradley Hunter Welch. Steve Johnan, Artistic Director-in-Residence, conducts the Sanctuary Choir. The Sanctuary Ringers are conducted by Stephanie Rhoades, Director of Worship and Music.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers for the friends and family on the death of Mary E. Kesler on December 4. A memorial service was held in Sanford, NC, on December 17.

Prayers for the friends and family on the death of Margie Bradley on December 13. A private service was held on December 17.

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Columbarium Garden are given by Debbie and Jim Johnson in loving memory of Edna and Shay Johnson, and by Susan Pollan in loving memory of William C. Parker.

FOR OUR GUESTS

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP EXTENDS BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE SANCTUARY in the form of video recording and live streaming. Your presence with us today signifies consent to the possibility that your image may be included as part of our media broadcast. Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship kits are available on the white cube shelves in the north and south transepts. We also provide a professionally staffed nursery in room S168 (across from the church office) for infants through 36 months.