

New St. Peter's Presbyterian Church
Celebration of Worship
December 30, 2018

Striking of the Hour *“Immortal, Invisible”*

Call to Worship (Proverbs 1)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Liturgy of the Word (Proverbs 1, 1 Corinthians 1)

Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice. **“How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?”** For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. **Thanks be to God for our union with Christ, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption!**

Invocation

Hymn: *“Psalm 104: Oh Rejoice in All Your Works”*

Hymn: *“Be Thou My Vision”*

Confession of Sin and Plea for Pardon (Isaiah 29, 2 Corinthians 4)

Holy God, we have drawn near to You with our lips, yet we confess that our hearts are far from You. **Though You call us into worship, we often choose the control of ceremonial moralism over sincerity of heart. Though we hear Your Word proclaimed each week, we often replace biblical wisdom with a love for worldly saviors. In foolishness, we seek to hide our deepest thoughts from You. In arrogance, we reverse the natural order, reckoning ourselves the crafters of our own worlds and You the raw material from which we form our own image of god. Forgive us we pray, O Father. Open our deaf ears and illuminate our darkened eyes. Make us to see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, that His life might be shown in our own.**

Worshippers may continue to confess their sins in silence.

Assurance of Pardon (2 Corinthians 4) and Intercessory Prayer

Church, God, who said “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. He was crucified for those He calls to Himself. **But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Old Testament Reading 1 Kings 3:5-14, 11:1-6.

A reading from Israel’s history. Solomon asks for wisdom and receives both wisdom and wealth, yet his heart is turned away after other gods. (1 Kings 3 & 11)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Doxology *“Immortal, Invisible”*

Sermon: *“The Death of Self in the Death of Christ”* (1 Corinthians 1:18-25)

The Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451)

Following the holy fathers, we together confess the one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in deity and complete in humanity, truly God and truly man with a rational soul and a body. He is of one substance with the Father in His deity, and at the same time of one substance with us in His humanity. He is like us in all respects, apart from sin. As regards His deity, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards His humanity begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer. We also confess this one and the same Christ – Son, Lord, Only-begotten – in two natures without confusion, change, division or separation between them. They are together one and the same Son and only begotten Logos of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. This the prophets of old testified, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

Words of Institution and Fencing the Table (Various)

The mystery of the incarnation is clear in its purpose. Our sin created an insurmountable obstacle, so our Mediator could not be common.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, through His immeasurable love, became what we are, that He might bring us to be even what He is Himself, to make us not merely sons of men, but sons of God.

He has received what is ours to transfer to us what is His, making that which is by nature to become ours by grace.

He welcomes us to His table where our fellowship with Him is pictured and sealed. Let us not eat and drink like the undisciplined, but rather like those adopted fully, maturing in His likeness, and displaying our true inheritance in the Word made flesh for us.

Come to the Table...

Communion Hymn: *“Come All Ye Pining, Hungry, Poor”*

Communion Hymn: *“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”*

Communion Hymn: *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

Communion Hymn: *“Grace Greater than Our Sin”*

Parting Liturgy (Colossians 1)

Children of God, the Father has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

Benediction (Colossians 1)

May you be filled with the knowledge of God’s will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.