

**NEW ST. PETER'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Vespers Liturgy
Week of December 21**



CHRISTMAS VESPERS



Each year, to mark the season of Advent, our church gathers for midweek worship and reflection on the coming of our Lord. Due to the prevalence of COVID-19 in our community presently, we will not gather in-person for Christmas Vespers in 2020. However, we encourage you to use this liturgy at home—families, home groups, and individuals—in order to mark the season and reflect on both the first and second comings of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

We have included songs, readings, and prayers which draw on Scripture and other resources from our rich Reformed tradition, including the Westminster Standards (confessional standards of the PCA), the Book of Common Prayer (liturgical standard for the Anglican Church in North America and the Church of England at the time of the Reformation), and more. If you have questions about these resources, feel free to contact one of our pastors.

Parents: A supplemental teaching video that accompanies this liturgy can be found at the kids page of our website: <https://newstpeters.org/connect/nsp-kids>. Contact [Kelly Meyer](#) for the password.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

*Scripture References from the English Standard Version ©2002
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NEW ST. PETER'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Christmas Vespers Liturgy
Week of December 14

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

CALL TO WORSHIP

JEREMIAH 23

(Have one person read the call to worship & lead in a moment of silent reflection)

I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply.

Silence

CONFESSING THE FAITH

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM 24

(Have one person read the question, and then read the answer together)

How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?

Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by His word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.

INVOCATION

BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, 2019

(Read this prayer together, invoking the name of the Triune God in worship)

**O God, the source of all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to Your servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments, and that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.**

HYMN: “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

TRINITY HYMNAL, 200

(Find this hymn in the Trinity Hymnal, or at <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/TH1990>)

CONFESSION OF SIN AND PLEA FOR PARDON

MATTHEW 23

(Read aloud together and then spend some time in silent confession)

Revealer of truth and of Your will for our obedience, we have transgressed Your law in thought, word, and deed. We act hypocritically, doing our deeds to be seen by others and loving the honor and glory we receive from them. We are careful to feign external obedience, but we neglect the weightier matters of the law: justice, righteousness, and truth. We are quick to judge others, yet slow to examine ourselves. Forgive us, Lord, and let your Word shine on the darkness in our hearts, that we may walk in the light of repentance and faith.

Worshippers may continue to confess their sins in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

MATTHEW 5, 2 CORINTHIANS 8

(Have one person start, then all join in bold)

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. **We know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for our sake He became poor, so that we by His poverty might become rich.**

PRAYERS FOR PEACE

The Bible teaches that as our Prophet, Jesus reveals to us God’s will for our salvation by His Word and Spirit (see WSC 24 above).

Spend some time this week praying for the Word of God to take root in your hearts and in the hearts of our church, and for boldness to share God’s Word with others.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

DEUTERONOMY 18:15-22

(Have someone read the passage, and spend some time discussing its main ideas about Jesus’ coming)

DOXOLOGY

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

HEBREWS 3:1-19

(Have someone read the passage, and spend some time discussing its main ideas about Jesus' coming)

HYMN: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

TRINITY HYMNAL, 201

(Find this hymn in the Trinity Hymnal, or at <https://hymnary.org/hymnal/TH1990>)

PARTING LITURGY

HEBREWS 1

(Have one person start, then all join in bold)

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets.

But in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed the heir of all things, through whom also He created the world.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Spend time calling or texting someone in our church to share the peace of Christ.