



Praise the Lord

Service for the Lord's Day

December 27, 2020

The First Sunday After Christmas

Gathering Around the Word

Striking of the Hour

Prelude for the first Sunday after Christmas

Let Us Sing With Lofty Voice

Alexis Chauvet

We Rise in Spirit and in Body

Call to Worship

To celebrate that Christ has come, one of the great *Hallel Psalms*, Psalm 148

Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from heaven! Praise God on the heights!

You highest heaven, praise God! Do the same, you waters that are above the sky!

Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all you ocean depths!

Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!

Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar!

Do the same, you young men— young women too!— you who are old together with you who are young!

Let all of these praise the LORD's name because only God's name is high over all. Only God's majesty is over earth and heaven.

God raised the strength of his people, the praise of all his faithful ones— the people who are close to him. Praise the Lord.

Opening Hymn 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

First and Second Verses

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Aware of God's steadfast love and abiding presence, Let us shout Hallelujah! We have never been alone, but we have often failed to recognize that the Lord is with us. A new year is anticipated, and we reflect on the year just passed. We admit that we have too often forgotten to thank you, O God, for our joys, and we have too often blamed you for our sadness.

Lord, we surrender 2020, and give it back to you.

We confess our failures, our regrets, and our disappointments; and we bless you for giving us what we need to engage life's vividness in a new year, in the name of Christ.

A Silence is observed for Personal Confession

Declaration of Good News

Passing the Peace of Christ

The risen Lord brought the gift of life-giving peace. Let us share it with one another.

Time with Young Disciples

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Praise is Comprehensive and Exuberant through All Creation

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; **for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.** For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. **For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.** The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. **You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.**

Anthem

Infant So Gentle

Raymond Haan

All Stand

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

A Prophet and a Prophetess Rejoice in Christ's Coming

All Sit
Sermon

Listening for Simeon and Anna

Matthew Covington

Responding to the Word

All Stand

Response Hymn 679

Let the Whole Creation Cry

SALZBURG

Both Verses

*Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high."
Heaven and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty King!"
Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;
sun and moon, lift up your voice, night and stars, in God rejoice!*

*Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,
join with children's songs of praise; worship God through length of days.
From the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:
"Holy, holy, holy One, glory be to God alone!"*

Affirmation of Faith

Drawn from Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to Father's heart, who has made him known. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. Amen. **John 1:1, 14, 18 and Colossians 1:15, 19-20**

All Sit

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.

Bearing and Following the Word into the Created World

All Sit

Response Hymn 545

Song of Simeon

LAND OF REST

Both Verses

*Lord, bid your servant go in peace, your word is now fulfilled.
These eyes have seen salvation's dawn, this child so long foretold.*

*This is the Savior of the world, the Gentiles' promised light,
God's glory dwelling in our midst, the joy of Israel.*

Benediction

Postlude

Good Christian Folk Rejoice and Sing

IN DULCI JUBILO

WELCOME VISITORS! Even as we worship online, we are glad you are with us! For more information about our church, pastoral help or for prayer requests, please call 270-843-4707 or email our church office –

info@bgpres.org www.bgpres.org

The Presbyterian Church, 1003 State Street, Bowling Green, KY 42101

270-843-4707 • www.bgpres.org

Donate Online:

We have recently set up the church website to accept online donations. Just go to the website below and fill out the simple form. Donations can also be made from your smart phone. You can also scan the QR code, right.

<https://bgpresdonate.cloverdonations.com/online-donations/>



Our church Elders: Karol Ahmed, Mark Bigler, Pam Bratcher, Mary Evans, Mike Kanan, John Kernohan, Jean Harris, Wayne Hendrix, Tim Leigh, Nathan Love, Nancy Moore, Mike Morse, Pamela Napier, Bud Schlinker, and David Sears. **Our church Deacons:** Angie Alexieff, Rider Allen, Rob Byrd, Sally Calkins, Judy Clark, Ray Elms, Kim Ferguson, Kathleen Gildersleeve, Cathey Green, Linda Leigh, Debbie Morse, David Muffett, Annette Parkerson, Teri Polen, Ken Royse, Susan Thomison and Judy Whitson.

The Presbyterian Church Staff

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Heather Kirkconnell
Cedric Whitney
Barbara Solberg-Hale
Tim Leigh

Calendar

Sunday, December 7

9:30 a.m. Fellowship (Zoom)

10:30 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, December 29

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, December 30

6:00 p.m. DRITI

Friday, January 1

Office Closed

Announcements

MEDIA PERSONNEL: David Clarke

COLLEGIATE ENSEMBLE: Autumn Stolle, DiDi Turley,
Sam Tuggle, Eric Bigler

LIBRARIAN: Arnie Petrus, arfranpe@msn.com

LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAY, January 3: Jeremiah 31:7–14; Psalm 147:12–20; Ephesians 1:3–14; John 1:(1–9) 10–18.

TODAY

DEACON OF THE WEEK this week is David Muffett. Deacons assist the Pastor in caring for our congregation. You may contact them through the church office: 270-843-4707.

DAVID'S ROOM IN THE INN has begun! We are sheltering folks on Wednesdays this year. Help is needed for various jobs - some do not require being here on Wednesday. Many steps are in place to keep everyone safe. Click here for the sign up: <https://bgpres.org/serve/davids-room-in-the-inn> or you can contact Rider Allen-270-938-5327.

COMING UP

WIRED WORD CLASS RESUMES Sunday January 3. If you weren't on our earlier list and want to join in, email Leslee Kirkconnell. Each week the zoom link and the article will be sent. Nathan Love will again be leading us in good discussion around current events, with a biblical and theological focus. If you want to be added to our distribution list, contact Leslee Kirkconnell.

BUCK IN A BASKET 'RETURNS' January 3. The Mission committee has set a schedule, and even while we are not yet together, we have a challenge. January is designated for us to help fund internet 'hot spots' for the children who live in Housing Authority units. Each 'spot' costs \$10 per month. The challenge is for each of us to contribute at least one hot spot per person. The need is for 94 hot spots for the month. But any and all contributions of ANY size will be helpful and much appreciated!

TESTIMONY - REMEMBERING, RECLAIMING, REARTICULATING. Join us for a six week study of the Bible and Reformed faith. Begins Wednesday January 6, 7:00 by zoom, with Dr. Glenn Kirkconnell leading (this will take us to the beginning of Lent). Classes will be recorded and available later for those unable to join 'live.'

THE ABC'S OF DIVERSITY - HELPING OUR KIDS (AND OURSELVES) EMBRACE OUR DIFFERENCES will be a four week book small group January 4-25, 7:00pm by zoom. Led by Heather and Leslee Kirkconnell, we will read the book and discuss implications for parents and those of us who love and interact with children. Books are available from Leslee Kirkconnell.

A NEW YEAR, A FRESH START! Join a Small Group in 2021 and grow your faith and your relationships! We have several options already, in addition to what has been outlined already in these announcements. Tim Leigh is leading a Men's Prayer group (zoom) on first Tuesdays and last Thursdays each month by zoom; Karen Watson is leading a walking group at Basil Griffin Park each Tuesday morning at 8:15am. Julia Roberts and Mary Evans have a zoom group on the first Thursday each month (zoom). More to come!

OTHER NEWS:

THE CHURCH OFFICE will be closed on New Year's Day.

WE ARE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE Housing Authority and NAACP. They are in need of items for children and youth - socks, underwear, warm jackets, gloves, hats etc. You can send us a donation to purchase or bring items to the church and we will make sure they get where needed. You can also put your items in a ziploc bag and clip to the Gloves with Love line on our fence. We are seeing folks taking items they need and also leaving some!

OUR FOOD PANTRY is seeing increasing demand. Any items you can contribute (or send a donation toward purchasing) are much appreciated. One pound bags of rice/beans (we cannot repackage big bags right now); 18 oz peanut butter, canned fruit, vegetables, meat (tuna, chicken, vienna sausage etc); canned beans, soup (NOT condensed); canned pasta, snack bars, fruit cups, box mac and cheese, dry milk pouches etc. PLEASE NO GLASS CONTAINERS. Thank you for helping our neighbors!