

December 24, 2017
ORDER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude*Air on the G String*

Arr. Sherry Lewis

David Hogenauer, flute; Jenise Reedus, violin; Effie Latz, viola; Ross Wightman, double bass

Greeting

God is good

All the time.

And all the time.

God is good.**Call to Worship (Advent Candle Lighting)**Congregational response: **For nothing will be impossible with God.*****Hymn: Insert *Advent 4***

1. **Kindle this flame of love. May it burn bright and true.**
Lighting the way that is of God, the journey we pursue.
2. **God's realm is our desire, where peace and justice reign.**
Heaven and earth combined as one, when Christ shall come again.

Call to Confession**Confession**

God, you have shown us the good news, revealing to the whole world the love of which the prophets wrote. But we have kept your love quiet. We have forgotten to seek your wisdom. Any glory which we have found we have claimed for ourselves.

Strengthen us, O God, with your announcement of justice and peace, that we might be faithful in obedient love to your Beloved, sharing Christ's love with a broken world, and offering our humility before our God. Amen

***Words of Grace**

In Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!***The Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.***Gloria Hymn #113 chorus****Gloria in excelsis Deo;****Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Luke 1:46b-55

page 888

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response (see insert)

Psalm 89

Congregational Response: **Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

Children's Chat

Rita Boyer, Certified Educator

Second Reading Luke 1:26-38

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The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God Acts

Rev. Dr. Rick Boyer

*Hymn #100 My Soul Cries Out

**1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.**

**You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?**

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
and the world is about to turn.**

**2. Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last
from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,**

**and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)**

**3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,
for the food they can never earn;
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)**

**4. Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around. (Refrain)**

***Affirmation of Faith Apostles Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth. and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

THANKSGIVING

Offering

Musical Offering

What Child Is This?
Chancel Choir

Arr. Russell Robinson

***Praise God (Hymn #608)**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.**

***Prayer of Dedication / Lord's Prayer**

**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 as 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.**

SENDING

Sending the Church into Mission

The Mission of Prospect Church

**To be a family in Christ reaching out to all with love, prayer, and service. Through
worship, education, mission, and fellowship, we experience God's love, forgiveness,
grace, and call.**

***Hymn #123 It Came Upon The Midnight Clear**

**1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.**

**2. Still through the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world:
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.**

**3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not**

**the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife
to hear the angels sing!**

**4. And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
whose forms are bending low,
who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow,
look now, for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing:
O, rest beside the weary road,
and hear the angels sing.**

**5. For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.**

***Benediction and Congregational Response**

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

Hymn #545 verse 1

Postlude

Ukrainian Bell Carol
(Carol of the Bells)

Arr. Sherry Lewis

David Hogenauer, flute; Jenise Reedus, violin; Effie Latz, viola; Ross Wightman, double bass