



CARMICHAEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 17, 2023

Livestream & In-Person

10:00 a.m.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Ivan N. Herman

Click [HERE](#) to register your attendance

* GREETING ONE ANOTHER

PRELUDE

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Mary Thomas

Leader: With open hands, we proclaim:

People: God promise to bring good news to the afflicted, the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the tormented,

Leader: the grieving, and the imprisoned. With open spirits, we shout with joy,

People: God calls us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly.

Leader: With open minds, we gather in God's covenant.

People: God sanctifies us so that we will be ready for the coming of the Lord. Let us worship God!

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Mary Thomas

Leader: When we come to worship God, we must first remember who we are, and we are people who often sin and turn from the ways of God. Relying on God's abundant grace, let us offer our confession together, knowing that we will be offered forgiveness in Christ.

All: **Gracious God, long ago you sent Christ to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, and to proclaim liberty to the captives. You then asked us to go and do the same for we are the church of Jesus Christ. Forgive us, we pray, for we have not continued to share the good news. We have focused on ourselves and neglected to help others. Help us to continue to share the healing and loving words of Christ to all the world and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We ask this in Jesus' name.**

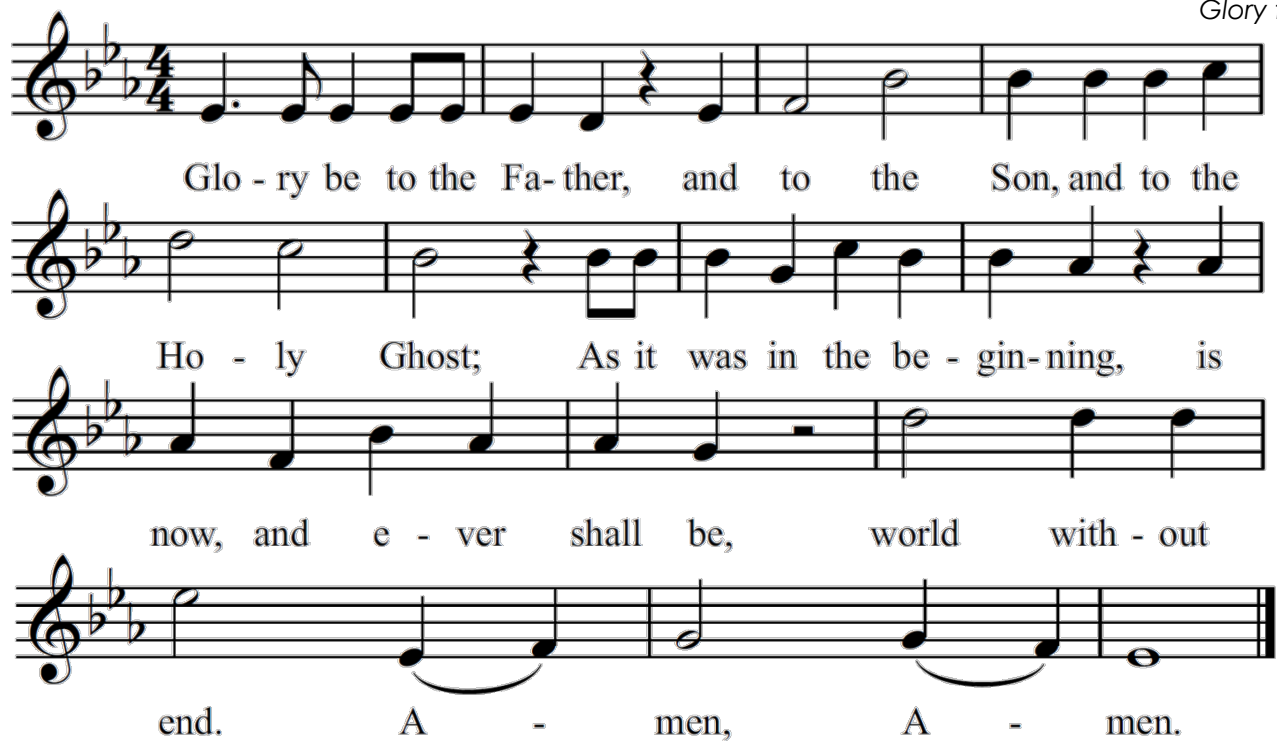
Silence

Leader: Hear the good news! Through the grace and love of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

* RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE **"Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)"**

No. 581
Glory to God



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the
 Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be - gin - ning, is
 now, and e - ver shall be, world with - out
 end. A - men, A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

The Davidson/Kelly Family

ADVENT PRAYER

All: **Lord Jesus, as we search for signs of joy this week, help us to become the signs of joy that others are searching for. As these candles are but a glimpse of the light of the heavens, help us to be a glimpse of heaven's joy. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

arr. Mark Patterson

Waterfall Singers

Nancy Studer, Director; Kathy Phillips, Accompanist

TIME FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

(Children are invited to the front of the church. Afterwards, children 4 years old through 5th grade are invited to Sunday School in Room 207.)

ANTHEM

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

Lewis Kirby, Jr.

Sanctuary Choir

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below
See the tender lamb appears, promised from eternal years
Lo within a manger lies He who built the starry skies
He who throned in height sublime sits among the cherubim
Say ye holy shepherds say what your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?
As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light
Angels singing, "peace on earth" told us of the Savior's birth
Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine!
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this
Hail, though ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn
Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below
See the tender lamb appears, promised from eternal years

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.

SERMON

Good News!

Pastor Keith L. DeVries

All you works of God, every mountain, star, and tree
Bless the One who shapes your beauty, who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace, ever ancient, ever new
Raise your voices, all you works of God

Sun and moon, bless your maker
Stars of heaven, chant your praise
Showers and dew, raise up your joyful song

All you works of God, every mountain, star, and tree
Bless the One who shapes your beauty, who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace, ever ancient, ever new
Raise your voices, all you works of God

All the earth, bless your maker
Hills and mountains, chant your praise
Green things that grow, raise up your joyful song

All you works of God, every mountain, star, and tree
Bless the One who shapes your beauty, who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace, ever ancient, ever new
Raise your voices, all you works of God

All who live, bless your maker
Men and women, chant your praise
Servants of God, raise up your joyful song

All you works of God, every mountain, star, and tree
Bless the One who shapes your beauty, who has caused you all to be
One great song of love and grace, ever ancient, ever new
Raise your voices, all you works of God
Raise your voices, all you works of God

OFFERING AND PRAYER

OFFERTORY

“French & German Carol Medley”

(“Il Est ne le divin enfant” & “O, Tannenbaum”)

Women’s Ensemble

Liliane Morin, Language Coach

Translation:

(chorus) He is born the divine child, oboes play, bagpipes sound
He is born the divine child, let all sing His nativity!

'Tis four thousand years and more, prophets have foretold His coming
'Tis four thousand years and more, we have awaited this happy hour (chorus)

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green your leaves are!
You're not only green in summertime, but also in winter when it snows
Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green your leaves are!

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, you give me so much pleasure!
How often at Christmas time, a tree from you delights me
Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, you give me so much pleasure!

1 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says God to all the earth,
 2 The days are sure - ly com - ing, says Christ, the prom - ised one,
 3 The days are sure - ly com - ing when we will know at last

when you will see my prom - ise: sal - va - tion come to birth.
 when you will read my warn - ing in moon and stars and sun.
 the full - ness of God's pres - ence, God's prom - ise, come to pass.

My righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land
 Though earth and heav - en trem - ble, stand up and do not fear,
 Then righ - teous - ness and jus - tice will spread through - out the land

and you will be de - liv - ered by my al - might - y hand.
 for I am your re - deem - er, and I am draw - ing near.
 and we will be de - liv - ered by God's al - might - y hand.

Pastor: God of Advent, who promises to come again in restoration and wholeness, we acknowledge that our needs are not so different from those peoples of long ago. We too wander in darkness, and we yearn for your light to come into our lives. Trusting in Christ, we bring our prayers for the world.

We pray for the world that is shaped by so much sin. We pray that those oppressed would be set free, that those who are bound by injustice would find new life. We ask that you help us form this world more closely into the image of your kingdom. Help us to be faithful, in things big and small, and be your people in the world.

We pray for our nation. May unity and goodwill have the last word. May we see ourselves not by what divides us but by our identity as your beloved creation. Particularly when it comes to political parties and affiliations, temper our desire to win or be right with a concern for the greater good.

We pray for those who are sick, lonely, and without hope. Grant them the sure and certain knowledge of your love and care and may we each, as your people, be a community that cares and heals. For those who grieve, or are near to death, we ask a special blessing.

May all things, Lord, point toward you and your light in the world. We ask it all in the name of Jesus, and offer together the prayer that he taught us, saying,

All: 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

(If you would like to privately share a concern, thanksgiving, or request for healing, please come to the Stephen Ministry banner on the east wall of the Sanctuary immediately following the service for individual prayer with a Stephen Minister.)

* CLOSING SONG

"Prepare Him Room"

Rebecca Elliott & Dave Fournier

O behold, the mystery now unfolds. See the star shine on the virgin foretold
Angels sing and light up the sky, hope rings out in a newborn's cry
Swing wide, you ancient gates for Christ is born today!

Prepare Him room; Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

God with us, the promise has come to be. This, the one the prophets were longing to see
In the darkness a blazing light, to the hungry the words of life
His kingdom now is near for those with ears to hear

Prepare Him room; Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem! Hear Him knock, don't say there's no room in the inn
Through the cradle, cross, and grave see the love of God displayed
Now He's risen and He reigns! Praise the Name above all names!

Prepare Him room; Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in

Prepare Him room; Prepare Him room
Let the King of glory enter in. Let the King of glory enter in

* CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

DUKE STREET by John Hatton

setting by Alice Jordan

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

Call to Worship from *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online* hymnal.pcusastore.com

Confession, Pardon, and Prayers of the People by Tara Bulger © *Presbyterian Outlook*, 2023

Assurance of Pardon from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © Westminster John Knox Press, 2012

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Music Director: Keith Atwater

Organist: Rick Schlosser

Piano: Gabe Bisho

Drums: Will Condrey

Guitar: Michael Schwab

Vocalists: Karen Gray and Julie Ueltzen

