

John Knox Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day December 21, 2025



GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Those who are able, please stand*

PRELUDE

A Christmas Trilogy

Thomas Bliss

*INTROIT: HYMN 143

Angels from the Realms of Glory, v. 1

REGENT SQUARE

***Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn king!***

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Anne Holden
William & Gabrielle Ferguson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Luke 1:46-49

My soul magnifies the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

The Mighty One has done great things for us.

Holy is God's name!

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Trusting God's forgiving love,
let us confess together our sin:

**God of boundless love,
we admit our great need for your forgiveness.
We trust the world's power more than yours.
We put our own desires before others' needs.
We seek our security in power and possessions.
We claim your love but resist your call to serve.**

**Forgive us, loving God.
Help us to seek and accept the mercy your show us
in the life of Jesus, our Savior.
May we trust your forgiving love for ourselves,
and share that love freely with others,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Silent Confession

***LORD, HAVE MERCY**

***Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy;
Lord, have mercy upon us.***

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

based on Isaiah 40:1-2

Friends, hear the good news!
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Your sins are pardoned; your penalty is paid!
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

***RESPONDING IN PRAISE**

Hymn 582, v.1

Sing twice

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

LIFE AND WORK AT JOHN KNOX

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Sarah Brand

At this time, K3s, K4s and K5s are invited to join Children's Church on the Nursery Hall for a time of learning and fun. Parents, please pick up your children there after the worship service.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16
Pew Bible p. 554

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger
Kim Souther, cello

arr. Howard Helvey

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25
Pew Bible p. 783

The grass withers, the flower fades,
The Word of our God will stand forever.

SERMON

"Strong/Not So Silent"

Justin Cazel

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed
Hymnal, p.35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

Offertory Anthem *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child*
Kim Souther, cello

Dan Forrest

*The hands that first held Mary's Child were hard from working wood,
from boards they sawed and planed and filed and splinters they withstood.
This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no iron nail,
but cradled from the head to heel our Lord, newborn and frail.*

*When Joseph marveled at the size of that small breathing frame,
and gazed upon those bright new eyes and spoke the Infant's name,
the angel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heaven's height,
and, like the host of stars that beamed, blessed earth with welcome light.*

*'This Child shall be Emmanuel, not God upon the throne,
but God with us, Emmanuel, as close as blood and bone.'
The tiny form in Joseph's palms confirmed what he had heard,
and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heaven's human word.*

*The tools that Joseph laid aside a mob would later lift
and use with anger, fear and pride to crucify God's gift.
Let us, O Lord, not only hold the Child who's born today,
but, charged with faith, may we be bold to follow in his way.*

*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: HYMN 136

GO TELL IT

Go Tell It on the Mountain, v. 1

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds kept their watching, o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

POSTLUDE

The First Noel

David Paxton

Worship Team

Mark Britt
Susan Felton
Carol Phillips
Ava Watson

Luke Browder
Parker Johnson
Scott Reichen
Rob Wright

Justin Cazel
Kristine Lee
Carter Rief

Jacob deMaine
Bobby Mock
Caroline Robertson

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,
License # 732055-A. CCLI #4361531.



Scan this QR
code to access
all current
sign-ups.