
ORDER OF WORSHIP

MUSICAL PRELUDE

GOD CALLS US INTO HIS HOLY PRESENCE *(Please stand)*

Minister: I will sing of the steadfast love of the Lord forever;

Congregation: With my mouth I will make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

Minister: For I said, Steadfast love will be built forever;

Congregation: In the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness,

Minister: You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:

Congregation: "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations."

~ Psalm 89:1-4

HYMN "Joy has Dawned" (see insert)

Prayer of Adoration: Chas Jaskulski, Ruling Elder

Minister: The peace of the Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Minister: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: Who made heaven and earth!

GOD CLEANSSES US IN CHRIST *(Please be seated)*

Leader: Let us hear the exhortation of the Word of God regarding the righteous character of our new lives in Christ:

"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life." (Romans 6:1-4)

Leader: Let us confess our sins together:

O Lord God, You have commanded me to believe in Jesus, and I would flee to no other refuge, wash in no other fountain, build on no other foundation, receive from no other fullness, rest in no other relief. For I have tasted of my Savior's goodness, mercy, and love. Yet, I sin. My

soul's pursuit of You is inconstant, and I am only too ready now in Your presence to acknowledge my need of your grace, mercy, and forgiveness in Christ. Forgive me my sins against Your Holy Law. I have not loved You with my whole heart, nor have I loved my neighbor as myself. Through Your Spirit and Word, cleanse me as I look to Jesus and His finished work on the cross in reconciling me to You. He has suffered Your wrath in my place and buried my sins beneath His atoning blood. How I praise You that You have made me a new creation in Him. As I move forward with You, let me rejoice that I am under the care of One Who is too wise to err, too kind to injure, and too tender to crush. Help me to guide my affections with discretion. Strengthen me to be quick to give to those in need, to feel it my duty and pleasure to be merciful and forgiving, and to show the world the likeness of Jesus. I pray this in His glorious name and for His honor. Amen. *

Leader: Please take a moment to privately commune with our Lord.

Minister: People of God, lift up your heads and stand with me to hear the good news of our salvation: *(Please stand)*

(1 Peter 2:24,25) "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls."

Minister: Our sins are forgiven through the atoning work of Christ Jesus our Lord, the Lamb of God!

Congregation: Praise be to God!

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" #201

Confession of Faith: The Apostles' Creed (845)

GOD INSTRUCTS US

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11 (page 330)

Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38 (page 1088)

Epistle Reading: Romans 16:25-27 (page 1209)

Minister: The grass withers, the flower fades,

Congregation: But the word of our God stands forever!

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN

Leader: People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

People: May the Lord be with you.

Children: And also with you!

People: May the Word of the Lord grow in your hearts.

Children: Thanks be to God.

People: Go in peace.

Sermon: "The Obedience of Faith"
~ Pastor Dwight Dolby

GOD RECEIVES OUR PRAISE AND SEALS US IN CHRIST

HYMN "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child" #229

Prayers of God's People/Tithes and Offerings / Doxology

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them up to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Congregation: It is right for us to give thanks.

Minister: It is truly fitting, and right, and our joyful duty, to at all times and in all places give thanks to the Lord our God. And so now, in the company of angels, archangels, and all the Heavenly hosts, we magnify and glorify His name together singing...

SANCTUS (see back)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" #223

GOD SENDS US FORTH TO SERVE

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL "For Thine is the Kingdom"

* Prayer drawn in part from the collection of Puritan prayers in, "The Valley of Vision."

VISITORS: We are a local congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), a conservative and evangelical denomination. You can find out more about the PCA from a brochure in the rack in our hallway.

OUR WORSHIP STYLE: You'll note ours is a traditional worship service, based upon forms of worship (liturgies) arising out of the Protestant Reformation. You will need to keep your bulletin in hand. We regard corporate worship as a dialogue between God and His covenant people.

WEEKLY MEETINGS:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: **Sundays 9-10:00 AM.** Join us. (Fellowship Hall) We're currently viewing and discussing a Ligonier Ministries video entitled, "The Fear of the Lord".

PRAYER SERVICE: Will resume on Wednesday, January 10.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Will not meet this week.

COMING SOON: The ARPC WBS will begin the new year with a study of prayer and a look toward the cross. January will be a look at what this means. Join us for *Joy Beyond Agony*, a study of the cross. Author, "... Jane Roach, reminds us of the centrality of the cross...a biblically faithful exposition of what God accomplished in Christ on the cross. The book is also devotionally rich, for Roach draws us into worship, meditation, and application. Behold the man who was crucified and risen - and be changed forever" (taken from Foreword by Thomas R. Schreiner). Join us!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP: EVERY OTHER SATURDAY

(January 6th and January 20th) @ 8:00 AM (Fellowship Hall) Join us for a healthy dose of Christian fellowship with other men. We are studying "The Teachings of Jesus" from Matthew.

TODAY:

CHRISTMAS EVE 2023: Please join us tonight at 6:30 p.m., here at the church. We anticipate a precious time of worship celebrating the birth of our Savior.

NEXT SUNDAY MORNING:

Sunday, December 31st: During the worship service, we will be ordaining and installing our newly elected officers. We trust you will be present to share with us, before the Throne of Heaven, the setting apart of these men to Christ's service in His Church.

NEXT MONTH:

CHURCH FELLOWSHIP MEAL: Plan to enjoy a healthy start to the new year at ARPC's January Fellowship Meal on Sunday, 1/7/24 following worship. Theme is "HEALTHY BEGINNINGS"! Please sign up in the hallway.

SANCTUS

"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY"

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord;

God of power, God of might.

Heaven and earth are filled with your glory:

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord:

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!"

NOTES:

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AUBURN ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



"And Mary said,
'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
Let it be to me according to your word.'"

~Luke 1:38a

**"Let us Worship God"
The Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24th, 2023
10:30 AM**