

# Christmas Eve

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December 24, 2018

11:00 p.m.



*The***FIRST**  
PRESBYTERIAN  
**CHURCH**  
*in* PHILADELPHIA

*est. 1698*

# Once in Royal David's City

## *Irby*

Cecil Frances Alexander

Henry Gauntlett

choir 1 Once in Ro - yal Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, where a  
 choir 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of all, and his  
 3 And thro' all his won - drous child - hood he would ho - nor and o - bey, love and  
 4 For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he grew, he was  
 5 And our eyes at last shall see him, thro' his own re deem - ing love, for that

mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for a bed: Ma - ry  
 shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 watch the low - ly mai - den, in whose gen - tle arms he lay: Christ - ian  
 lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew: and he  
 child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove; and he

was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor and mean and low - ly lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly  
 child - ren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.  
 feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.  
 leads his child - ren on to the place where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
 with the oxen standing by,  
 We shall see him; but in heaven,

set at God's right hand on high:  
 When like stars his children crowned,  
 all in white shall wait around.

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

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## PRELUDE

Little Lamb  
The Christ Child Lay on Mary's Lap  
Resonet in Laudibus  
Bethlehem Down

Blake Henson  
Richard Dirksen  
Johann Eccard  
Peter Warlock

## CANTICLE

*Besañçon Carol*

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today. Love the Lord is on the way.

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**\*HYMN** (*facing page*)

**Once in Royal David's City**

*Irby*

**\*CHRISTMAS LITANY**

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse

The Word was made flesh,  
**Alleluia, Alleluia!**  
and dwelt among us,  
**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Jesus, Son of the living God, Splendor of the father, light eternal:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, mighty God, born of Mary:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, wonderful counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, prince of peace, shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, friend of all, protector of the poor, treasure of the faithful:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, good shepherd, inexhaustible wisdom, our way, our truth, our life:

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of the saints,

**Glory to you, O LORD!**

**Christ is born, give him glory! Christ has come down from heaven, receive him!**

**Christ is now on earth, exalt him! O earth, sing to the Lord! O you nations,  
praise him in joy, for he has been glorified! Amen.**

*\*Those who are able may stand.*

## \*PRAYER OF ADORATION

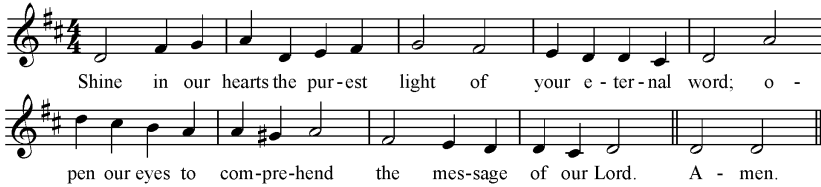


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# WELCOME

The Reverend Dr. Baron Mullis

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION



## EPISTLE LESSON

## Hebrews 1:1-4

(p. 213)

**\*PSALM 98 (HYMN 40)**

# Joy to the World

*Antioch*

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 1:1-18

(p. 90)

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

## Westminster Abbey

Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit, ever three and ever one.  
As it was in the beginning, now and evermore shall be. Amen.

## SERMON

## Tidings of Comfort and Joy

Dr. Mullis

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,  
the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.*

*John 1:14*



## **\*THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary  
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **OFFERTORY**

### **Calm on the Listening Ear of Night**

Kenneth Jennings

Calm on the listening ear of night  
Come heaven's melodious strains,  
Where wild Judea stretches forth  
Her silver mantled plains.  
Celestial choirs from courts above  
Shed sacred glories there,  
And angels, with their sparkling lyres,  
Make music on the air.  
The answering hills of Palestine  
Send back the glad reply;

And greet, from all their holy heights,  
The Day-Spring from on high.  
"Glory to God!" the sounding skies  
Loud with their anthems ring,  
"Peace to the earth; good will to men,  
From heaven's eternal King!"  
Light on thy hills, Jerusalem!  
The Savior now is born,  
And bright on Bethlehem's joyous plains  
Breaks the first Christmas morn.

## **\*HYMN 60**

### **Silent Night, Holy Night**

*Stille Nacht*

## SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### *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.

### *COMMUNION MOTET*

### *O Magnum Mysterium*

Tomas Luis de Victoria

*O magnum mysterium et admirabile  
sacramentum, ut animalia viderent  
Dominum natum jacentem in praesepe. O  
beata Virgo, cuius viscera meruerunt portare  
Dominum Jesum Christum. Alleluia!*

O great mystery, and wonderful  
sacrament, that the animals should see  
the new-born Lord lying in a manger.  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was  
worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

### \*HYMN 31

### Hark! The Herald Angels

*Mendelssohn*

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

### Improvisation

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## WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Whether you are visiting tonight for the first time, or are a longtime member of this church, we are glad you're here.

Here in this place, the seasons of our lives are marked: the children of God of every age are baptized, marriages are celebrated, and when one grieves, the whole body grieves together. We are a family of faith.

And just as Christ Jesus has welcomed each person to this church for over three hundred years, we extend our word of welcome in his name. Christ loves all, calls all, and welcomes all, and so members and guests alike enter to worship with the same profound welcome.

This congregation is steeped in history – three members of the church signed the Declaration of Independence. We are a part of the history of this city from its earliest days. But make no mistake about it: this is a living, breathing congregation seeking in real and tangible ways to make the grace of God known to our very modern world.

We would love to know you, and for you to know us. And if in getting to know us, you feel God is calling you to join together with us in living God's grace in this place, it would be our joy for you to become a part of this community.

*Baron Mullis, Pastor*

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The Christmas flowers and greens in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and are made possible by the generosity of members and friends of the congregation.

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Christmas Joy Offering supports past, present, and future leaders of the church. Fifty percent of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and fifty percent provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

### CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed on Tuesday, December 25 (Christmas Day), and Wednesday, December 26. The office will also be closed on Monday, December 31 and Tuesday, January 1, 2019.

### INTERESTED IN FIRST CHURCH?

If you would like to learn more about First Church and how you can be a part of the life and ministry of the church, you're invited to our new member class on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The class is informal and will explore what Presbyterians believe, what membership means, and how to get involved at First Church. Contact Sarah Weisiger ([sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org](mailto:sarah.weisiger@fpcphila.org)) or Baron Mullis ([baron.mullis@fpcphila.org](mailto:baron.mullis@fpcphila.org)) for more information.

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**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN PHILADELPHIA**

201 South 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-567-0532  
[www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)

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The Reverend Dr. Baron A. Mullis, *Pastor and Head of Staff*

The Reverend Megan LeCluyse, *Celebration Team Leader*

Mr. Andrew Senn, *Director of Music and Organist*

Ms. Suzanne Riemann, *Church Administrator*

The Reverend Jerry K. Foote, *Minister for Congregational Care*

The Reverend Sarah Weisiger, *Minister for Membership and Faith Formation*

Mrs. Patti Sassoli, *Director of Communications*

Ms. Annie LeCluyse, *Young Adult Leader*

The Reverend Barbara A. Chaapel

The Reverend Kenneth J. Ross

The Reverend Herbert D. Valentine

*Parish Associates*

**To learn more about First Church, visit our website and subscribe to our email list:**  
**[www.fpcphila.org](http://www.fpcphila.org)**