

CALL TO CONFESSION

*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our
sin to God.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

**God of mercy,
Christ has come among us bringing light to the darkness of this world.
We confess that we don't always welcome the light.
And far too often, we do not embody the light you have called us to embody.
In this holiday season, perhaps we have been selfish and ignored those in need.
Forgive us for our lack of action.
Renew our hands and feet in order to live like your son, Jesus Christ.
Renew our hope so that we may see your light
and receive the fullness of your grace,
Lord, have mercy.**

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* vs. 4 No. 44
**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*Now hear these words that are trustworthy and true:
Whatever you have done; whatever you have failed to do; whoever you are;
whoever you may one day still become —
You are welcome. You are accepted. You are forgiven. You are loved forever by the
very creator of the world, and there is nothing that can ever change that.
Thanks be to God. Amen.*

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*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

No. 23

**Let the nations shout and sing, glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joy and love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.**

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

A TIME FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:22-33 (NT pg. 55)

ANTHEM *Nobody Knew This Little Child* Edwin T. Childs
Dana and Leah Patek

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 22:34-40 (NT pg. 82)
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON **The Gift of Prophecy** Rebecca Heilman

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on Zephaniah 3:14-20)
Sing aloud, all you people! Rejoice with all your heart!

**We believe the Lord is in our midst.
We shall fear disaster no more.
The Lord will rejoice over us with gladness and renew us in God's love.
The Lord will exult over us with loud singing.
God will deal with the oppressors and save the lame.
God will gather the outcast and lift up the lowly.
God will change our shame into praise and renown in all the earth.
We believe the Lord our God is in our midst!**

*HYMN *In the Bleak Midwinter* No. 36

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION
CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER (Hymnal, p. 16)

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY *By Candlelight* Ruth Elaine Schram

*PRESENTATION OF OFFERING No. 53
**So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* No. 28

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY *Noël* Alexandre Boëly



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Charlottesville, Virginia

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday after Christmas Day
December 31, 2017

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Pastorale* Anon. 18th century

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!**

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!**

Praise the Lord!

**Praise the Lord from the earth,
praise God who creates all things.**

Praise the name of the Lord.

For God's name alone is exalted!

*HYMN

The First Nowell

No. 56

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

*When the song of
the angels is stilled,
when the star in the
sky is gone, when
the kings and the
princes are home,
when the shepherds
are back with their
flocks, the work of
Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the
prisoner,
To rebuild the
nations,
To bring peace
among people,
To make music in
the heart.
Amen.*

—Howard Thurman

*Congregation may stand. #Latecomers seated.
Please turn off cell phones during the service.