

CALL TO CONFESSION

We let our hearts grow cold and dark to match the weather, rather than face our transgressions. In the cold, dim winter God's light is hard to see. We long to hear God's message to unburden our hearts. God calls us to repentance and offers us the light of Christ. Believing in God's mercy and trusting in God's grace, let us turn to God with our confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Light, we are a people living in darkness:
the darkness of old superstitions and dogmas which refuse to fade away easily;
the darkness of pride in the half truths that have masqueraded as wisdom;
the darkness of entrenched evil that hates the light and tries to dispose of it;
the darkness of apathy that cannot be bothered to open the shutters.**
We admit to you and to each other,
that we are creatures who often choose darkness instead of light.
Forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others
and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.
Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT PRAYERS

SUNG RESPONSE

**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!**

No. 44

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the good news of the psalmist's proclamation: Even the darkness is not dark to God, and the night is as bright as the day. The God who promised never to leave us or forsake us has come to us in Jesus Christ! He comes to bind up the broken and set the captives free! In Jesus, we have forgiveness and life.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**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.**

No. 23

*SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

GOD'S WORD TO US

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 60:1-6 (OT pg. 649)

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 12:1-12 (NT pg. 11)

SERMON Risking the Journey Lynne Clements

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

*AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**God holds this world in sovereign love.
God kept God's promise, sending Jesus into the world.
We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.
As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience, and set free for joyful
praise, we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in this world.
With tempered impatience, eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
And we are confident that the light that shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.
Come, Lord Jesus! Our world belongs to you. Amen.**

—From *Our World Belongs to God*, st. 5-6

*HYMN *Bring We the Frankincense of Our Love* No. 62

PRAYER CONCERNS AND PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE OFFERING OFFERTORY

Song of Mary Harold Friedell

PRESENTATION OF BREAD AND CUP

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.



Westminster Presbyterian Church
Charlottesville, Virginia

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord’s Prayer

(Hymnal, page 16)

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 God thanks and praise...

*...and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name.*

Congregational sung response

HS No. 75

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blest is the one, O blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Communion Music

O Radiant Light

Mark Patterson

Hymn

What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright

No. 68

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

Jesus, the Light of the World

HS No. 9

*THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

Johann Pachelbel

**SILENT
PRAYER AND
MEDITATION**

God,
you placed a star
in the sky to draw
wise folk to the
place where
Christ was born.
Shine your light
upon us this day
and illumine our
hearts as we
gather for
worship,
empowering us to
be as the light of
the star and draw
the world to
Christ.
Amen.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

Epiphany

January 7, 2018

“It gives you pause to consider how, for all their great wisdom, [the Wise Ones] overlooked the one gift that the child would have been genuinely pleased to have someday, and that was the gift of themselves and their love.”

– Frederick Buechner

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Puer nobis nascitur

Jean-François Dandrieu/Nicolas Gigault

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your light has come,

and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Nations shall come to your light, and kings to your brightness.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,

on them light has shined.

Let us worship the Light of the world!

*HYMN

The First Nowell

No. 56

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