

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2025 11:00 A.M.





ORDER OF SERVICE

Please turn off all electronic devices. Nursery care is available.
These services are live streamed (a live video presentation)

THE APPROACH

PRELUDE

"Pastorale from the 'Christmas' Concerto"

Archangelo Corelli Stephen Boda

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN PLEASE STAND AND SING TOGETHER

No. 36 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Regent Square

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: And now, you have come into the world.

All: You have embraced us with your love.

Leader: You gather in everyone who is lost, who feels alone.

All: You create a safe home for us.

Leader: You are alive and with us forevermore.

All: All praise and glory be to you, Lord Jesus.
All sing: Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,

born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth, Hark the herald angels sing, alory to the new born King!

(No. 48 v. 3)

PRAYER OF APPROACH PLEASE BE SEATED

PRAYER OF CONFESSION SAY TOGETHER

We come before you Lord in the aftermath of all the excitement. The presents are all opened, dinner is finished but the lights still twinkle. It is quiet now. Let us embrace the calm and confess that we may have missed seeing you fully in the frenzy of December. We are sorry that this seems to happen every year. Forgive us and now, like Simeon, may we focus on you, your presence in the world and how we should respond. Let us listen carefully for you in this quieter

time and answer in the way you wish. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

KYRIE SING TOGETHER

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

DOXOLOGY PLEASE STAND

No. 74 v. 3 Greensleeves

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, one and all, 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!

THE WORD OF GOD

MINISTRY OF MUSIC CHOIR ONLY

In Dulci Jubilo

arr. Rutter Sanctuary Choir

In dulci jubilo [In quiet joy] Let us our homage show our heart's joy reclineth In praesepio [in a manger] And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio [in the mother's lap] Alpha es et O. [Thou art Alpha & Omega] O Jesu parvule [O tiny Jesus] I yearn for thee alway Hear me, I beseech thee, O puer optima [O best of boys] my prayer let it reach thee O princeps gloriae, [Prince of glory] Trahe me post te. [draw me unto thee] O patris caritas [O father's caring] O nati lenitas [O newborn's mildness] Deeply were we stained Per nostra crimina [by our crimes] But thou hast for us gained Coelorum gaudia [heavenly joy] O that we were there. Ubi sunt gaudia [where be joys] If that they be not there there are angels singing Nova cantina [new songs] There the bells are ringing In regis curia [at the king's court] O that we were there.

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:25-35

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

- 29 "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, 30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,
- 31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- 32 a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- 33 And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

HYMN OF PREPARATION PLEASE STAND AND SING TOGETHER No. 76 "See Amid the Winter's Snow"

SERMON

"As For You, Little Child..."
Rev. Dr. Jason Byassee

THE RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER SAY TOGETHER
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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM CHOIR ONLY

"The First Nowell"

Forrest

Sanctuary Choir

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel. They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence, their gold and