

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024

Pre-Service Music

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Welcoming Song #134: *Joy to the World* vs. 1 and 4

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

Praise the Lord, all of creation!

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

In sun and moon and shining stars,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

In sea creatures, land beasts, and flying birds,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

From young to old, from princes to peasants,

God is exalted in heaven and earth.

Raise up your horns, lift up your voice,

for God is exalted in heaven and earth!

Hallelujah!

Prayer of the Day

God of growth and maturation, we remember that in Jesus Christ you modeled what it means to be fully human. Thank you for the unwritten years of Jesus' life—the growth that happened in private, the lessons learned in secret, the burgeoning favor and hidden treasure. Grant us your grace in this time of worship. Help us welcome and receive the gift of slow growth, that we might be formed in your likeness. Amen.

Opening Hymn #140: *Once in Royal David's City* (stand)

Call to Confession

In faith and in hope,

we trust that God is merciful and just and receives our prayers with grace.

In humility and with meekness,

let us confess our sin together.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn of your light in Jesus Christ, we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world. We celebrate the birth of our savior, yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him. We are called to pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you; yet we are content to seek our own comfort and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need. By the light of the Christ child, lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness, as we seek to love all of your bountiful creation. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

We are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved.

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: *Gloria Refrain – Angels We Have Heard on High*
(stand)

Special Music: *Welcome, Welcome, Dear Redeemer* C. Franck
Mary Kwantes

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Worship leader will lead the prayers.

Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

For those who teach, and those who learn, we pray. Bless the education ministries of your church. Guide Sunday school teachers, college and seminary professors, and Bible study leaders in our ongoing faith formation and curiosity.

God of grace, **Receive our prayer.**

We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Lord who taught us to pray.

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

Hymn #754: *Help Us Accept Each Other* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let all other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today – the voice of truth and grace. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18 – 20, 26

Epistle Lesson: Colossians 3: 12 - 17.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:41 - 52.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *Known As Christians*

Susan Murray

Affirmation of Faith *Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19* (stand)

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offertory Hymn #708: *We Give Thee But Thine Own* vs. 1, 2

Prayer of Dedication:

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.

Hymn #300: *We Are One in the Spirit* (stand)

Charge and Benediction: (remain standing)

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude:

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