



Hudson Memorial  
Presbyterian Church (USA)



*To know, love, and serve God in Jesus Christ*

## Second Sunday of Advent A PAPER BAG CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



December 7, 2025

# Service for the Lord's Day

December 7, 2025

## We Gather to Worship

### People's Preparation

As we light the second candle in Advent, this year we're trying a new way of doing our Christmas pageant, inviting all ages to participate in an intergenerational celebration that brings fresh energy and joyful connection to our HMPC community. Advent reminds us that waiting can be sacred—an opportunity to hear the Christmas story with open hearts and renewed wonder. And as we journey together toward the manger, we're discovering just how much fun this season of anticipation can be! - Cary Dickerson and Rich Richards

### Prelude

*Prelude on "Wachet Auf" (Sleepers, Awake!)*

J.S. Bach

### Welcome

*Please sign the Friendship Pad, passing it down the pew and then back to the center aisle.*

### Introit

*Come Near, O Love Divine*

R.V. Williams

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Smart, Brouwer, Kelley Families

### Opening Hymn #82\*

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (Verse 1)*

## We Repent & Seek Forgiveness

### Call to Confession

Marguerite Serrine

### Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious and welcoming God, have mercy on your people. We confess that we do not believe in your incarnation. We do not heed your word each day in all that we say and do. We do not see our neighbors, families, and friends as beloved children whom you have made. In your mercy, forgive us, for we repent of our ways and look to your power to heal us and raise us up, so that, at the last, you will gather us to you and give us peace. Amen. *(Silence)*

### Assurance of Pardon

### Gloria Patri #581\*

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen. Amen.

# **We Hear God's Word: The Christmas Pageant**

**Prayer of Illumination**

Rich Richards

**Introduction to the Pageant**

Cary Dickerson

**Narrator Introduction**

Angie Bell-Morris & Ken Krause

***\*\*MARY and ANGEL GABRIEL come forward\*\****

## **Narration - Luke 1:26-38**

Choral Response #100 - *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Verse 1 - Chancel Choir only)*

***\*\*ELIZABETH comes forward\*\****

## **Narration - Mary Visits Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-56**

Congregational Response #100 - *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (Verse 2 and 3)*

***\*\*BABY JESUS, CAESAR & GUARDS, INNKEEPER, JOSEPH,  
and ALL ANIMALS (except sheep) come forward\*\****

2. Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

### **Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn.

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread; every mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. **(Refrain)**

## **Narration - The Birth of Christ - Luke 2:1-7**

Congregational Response #115 - *Away in a Manger (Verse 1 & 2)*

**\*\*SHEPHERDS, SHEEP, ANGELS come forward\*\***

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

## **Narration - The Angel's Proclamation - Luke 2:8-14**

Congregational Response #147 - *The First Nowell (Verse 1)*

**\*\*STARS come forward\*\***

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

## **Narration - The Shepherd Journey to Bethlehem - Luke 2: 15-20**

Congregational Response #147 - *The First Nowell (Verse 4)*

**\*\*WISEPEOPLE and STAR of BETHLEHEM come forward\*\***

4. 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.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

## Narration - The Wise Ones' Journey to the Manger - Matthew 2:1-2, 9

Congregational Response #147 - *The First Nowell (Verse 5)*

***\*\*GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH come forward\*\****

5. Then entered in those wise men three,  
full reverently upon their knee,  
and offered there in his presence  
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

## Narration - The Wise Ones at the Manger - Matthew 2:10-12

Congregational Response #119 - *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

***\*\*ALL PARTICIPANTS return to their seats.***

***HALLELUJAH CHORUS wave ribbons and ring bells.\*\****

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|---|--|
| 1. Hark! The herald angels sing,<br>“Glory to the newborn king.<br>Peace on earth and mercy mild,<br>God and sinners reconciled!”<br>Joyful all ye nations, rise;<br>join the triumph of the skies;<br>with the angelic host proclaim,<br>“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”<br>Hark! The herald angels sing,<br>“Glory to the newborn king!”               | 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,<br>Christ the everlasting Lord,<br>late in time behold him come,<br>offspring of the virgin’s womb.<br>Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;<br>hail the incarnate deity,<br>pleased in flesh with us to dwell,<br>Jesus, our Emmanuel.<br>Hark! The herald angels sing,<br>“Glory to the newborn king!” |
| 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!<br>Hail the sun of righteousness!<br>Light and life to all he brings,<br>risen with healing in his wings.<br>Mild he lays his glory by,<br>born that we no more may die,<br>born to raise us from the earth,<br>born to give us second birth.<br>Hark! The herald angels sing,<br>“Glory to the newborn king!” |  |

**Ending Instructions**

Marguerite Sirrine

**Choral Response**

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

# **We Respond in Faith**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

### **Offertory**

*And the Glory of the Lord from The Messiah*

Isaiah 40:5; Handel

"And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it  
Together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

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*To make an online offering to HMPC, we invite you to use this QR code:*

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### **Doxology #609\***

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures high and low.  
Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word and Spirit one.  
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!"

## **Sealing of the Word: The Lord's Supper**

### **Invitation to the Table**

### **Prayer & 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.

### **Words of Institution**

### **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

*There are 3 stations in the Sanctuary - Ushers will invite you to move toward a station where you take bread, dip the bread into the cup, and partake of the elements as you return to your seat. If you prefer to remain in your seat, signal to an usher and servers can come to you. For those with allergies, please pick up a gluten-free baggie at any entrance. We serve non-alcoholic grape juice.*

### **Closing Prayer**

## **We Bear and Follow the Word into the World**

### **Benediction\***

Marguerite Serrine

**Choral Response\***

*Fill the World with Love Divine*

W.H. Monk

**Postlude**

*Prelude on Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

J.S. Bach

*\*Rise, in body or spirit*

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## Welcome

We are delighted you have joined us for worship today! Following the service, we invite you to a time of refreshments and fellowship in Westminster Hall. All are welcome!

If you are a guest, we invite you to stop at one of the entryway tables for a gift bag and information about the church.

## Worship Notes

**Ushers today** - Tricia Brouwer, Wilson Cheeley, Ruth Herpich, Jill Hovis

**Greeters today** - Joanna Hulsey, Rick & Karen Melling

**Deacons and Elders serving Communion by Intinction** - Harry Bowles, Polly Bryant, Jeffrey Coonse, Karen Gaither, Mary Greenoe, Rebecca Keen, and Elizabeth Rankin.

**Soundboard Operator** - Gil Graybill | **Livestream Operator** - Trevor Boone

**Blue prayer cards** are available in the pew racks. If you are in need of prayer, you may fill out a card and put it in the offering plate.

**Deacon on Call (DOC)** for December is Joanna Hulsey. If you are in need of prayer, comfort or assistance, please call the confidential Deacon Prayer line at 919-390-2688.

**Hymns, anthems, images, texts** used with permission (CCS #8034 and CCLI #2211695)

*Come Down, O Love Divine*: Ralph Vaughan Williams, *Glory to God* Hymnal #282, text adapted. *And the Glory of the Lord* from *The Messiah*: Words: Isaiah 40:5, Music: George Friederic Handel, ©1940 G. Schirmer.  
*Fill the World with Love Divine*: William Henry Monk, *Glory to God* Hymnal #96

**Special Offering For December: Christmas Joy** - God has blessed the Church with incredible leadership, but those leaders can need help themselves. This Special Offering, a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s, provides for Presbyterian church workers in need and furthers leadership development for communities of color. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the PCUSA Assistance Program and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families, helping hundreds to stay in their homes, assisted living, or long-term care or to otherwise meet financial challenges while Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development and so nurture racial and ethnic heritage, a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years. You may place your donation in the offering plate (designated to “Joy”), or you can give online by visiting [hmpc.org](http://hmpc.org).

# Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church

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## Our Mission Statement

*To Know, Love and Serve God in Jesus Christ*

## Our Vision

*We seek to welcome with the love of Christ,  
trust in the grace of Christ, and grow with the help of Christ.*

## Our Core Values

*Worship, Generosity, Service, Nurture, Education & Gratitude*

### Children & Their Families: Worship, Education & Helpful Hints

We enthusiastically welcome all children to HMPC! The comfort and security of children are our highest priority.

- **Nursery for infants, toddlers, and twos** is located on the north end of the first floor and is available from 9:15-12:15. Please sign in your child with one of our childcare workers.
- **We welcome all families to begin Worship together in the Sanctuary.** Please sign in children at the back of the Sanctuary near the Children's Worship Area and ensure each child is wearing his/her lanyard or a nametag. Following the Children's Message, all children age 3 years through 4th grade are welcome to go with the Children's Ministry volunteers to Sunday School.
- **Our Children's Worship area** is open to children 1st grade and under. Children 2nd grade and older are asked to sit with their parents until the Children's Message. While your child is in the Children's Worship Area, parents should sit in nearby pews to supervise their children.
- **Our Children's Music program** will gather today from **11:30-12:15** in Geneva Hall.

## Upcoming at Hudson

**Today, December 7 - Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Hope - 4:00pm - Sanctuary**

**Sunday, December 14 - Christmas Joy Music Worship - 10:30am**

*Following the service, Presbyterian Women will host a reception in Westminster Hall—a time for fellowship and a farewell celebration in honor of Rich Richards.*

**Wednesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve Services - 5:00pm and 7:00pm**

*Candlelight "Lessons & Carols" services.*

*Only the 5:00pm service will have nursery available. Only the 5:00pm service will be live-streamed.*



**Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so-la-tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.  
by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.

