



## Advent Week Four Order for Worship

10:00 AM, December 21, 2025

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### Welcome

#### Special Music – Praise Ringers

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

### Announcements

- **Welcome Visitors!** Please fill out the visitors' card from the pew rack in front of you and place it in an offering plate near the exits of the sanctuary.
- **Nursery Care** is available during worship for children three and under.
- **Sunday School:** age 4 through grade 12 begins after Children's Time.
- **Congregational Meeting:** Stay after worship to elect new officers and at-large members of the 2026 Nominating Committee. We will also set the pastor's 2026 terms-of-call.
- **Pageant Platform Set-Up and Tear Down:** Please stay after the congregational meeting to help finish setting up the platform for our Christmas Eve Pageant. We also need help on Friday, the 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM to tear down the platform (donuts will be provided!)
- **Poinsettias:** Thank you to everyone who donated poinsettias. You may take them with you as you leave worship today.
- **Christmas Eve Services:** Our annual Christmas Eve pageant will be presented at 6:30 and 8:00 pm on Christmas Eve. Don't miss it!
- **New Members' Class** If you are interested in joining RPPC or in learning more about us, please join our new members' class which will be held between services on Sunday mornings, January 11 – February 8.
- **Christmas Joy Offering:** Today is the last day to contribute to this special offering which supports PCUSA church leaders in need.
- **Women's Bible Study** will resume meeting on January 15 from 6:30 – 8 pm in Friendship Hall then continue meeting each Thursday through February 26. They will be studying "The Armor of God" with Priscilla Shirer. Sign up at <https://bit.ly/RPPC-ArmorofGod> where you will also find information on ordering the book. We hope you will join us!

- **Rooted** is an opportunity to join others who wish to grow deeper in your relationships with God. It will be held at 7pm Tuesdays, beginning January 13. Find more information about Rooted in the back of the sanctuary -- and if you have any questions, Tom Horne would be happy to answer them.
- **January Mission Collection:** We are collecting new or gently used winter coats, hats, gloves, and hoodies for Chester Eastside and CityTeam. Donations may be placed in the wooden collection box in Friendship Hall.
- **Blanket Squares:** Check the outreach bulletin board for information on how to make 8" x 8" blanket squares used to make blankets for those in need.
- **150th Anniversary Ornaments** are available at the back of the sanctuary. Please take only one ornament per household.
- **2026 Offering Envelopes:** Please pick up your offering envelopes which are in the hallway across from Friendship Hall. They are sorted by envelope number.
- **Financial Update:** While giving was strong throughout the year, it declined sharply in September and has not recovered. Please help us to make up for the shortfall with end-of-year giving.

## Opening Prayer

**Special Music – Praise Ringers & RPPC Kids Bells**

Angels We Have Heard on High

## Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-18

Leader 1: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

People: An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

Leader 1: But the angel said to them,

Leader 2: “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Leader 1: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

People: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Leader 1: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

People: “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Leader 1: So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

People: And all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

**Song**

What a Glorious Night

1. The shepherds came to see the baby, stood by His mother's side. Here laid the Savior  
Inside a manger. Oh, what a glorious night! Oh, what a glorious night!

## Chorus

*I hear the angels singing, "Hallelujah! Let the earth receive her King."**I know that love has come; sing it out: Jesus Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!*

2. The shepherds wondered; they couldn't hide it, told everyone in sight.

All were amazed when they heard how God came down on the glorious night!  
God came down on this glorious night!

## Chorus

*I hear the angels singing, "Hallelujah! Let the earth receive her King."**I know that love has come; sing it out: Jesus Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!*

## Bridge

Glorious, glorious, what a glorious night! Glorious, glorious, what a glorious night!

## Repeat Chorus

3. All is calm now, all is quiet; a star shining in the sky. Below, in Bethlehem,  
The King is sleeping. Oh, what a glorious night! Oh, what a glorious night!

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**Lighting of the Advent Candles of Rejoicing & Witnessing**

Choi-McBride &amp; Robinson

Families

**RPPC Kids Brass Ensemble**

- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- We Three Kings

**RPPC Kids Singers**

- Call Him Jesus

**Children and Youth Dismissed for Sunday School**

Pastor Jim

**Hymn #250**

O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs. 1,4)

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on 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.

**Hymn #251****It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (vs. 1,3,4)**

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heav'n's all-gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
2. And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow  
Look now! For glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.
3. For lo, the days are hast'ning on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Reading**

Hebrews 2:10-11, 14-15, 17

<sup>10</sup> In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. <sup>11</sup> Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters.

<sup>14</sup> Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—

<sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.... <sup>17</sup> For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

**Meditation:** Who is This Baby?

Pastor Jim

**Congregational Prayer****Special Music – Pam Cunningham**

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Mary, Did You Know?

**Benediction****Closing Hymn**

Joy to the World (vs. 1,4)

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,

And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.

2. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.