



Christ Presbyterian Church in The Hill

Our Gathered Order of Service

December 20, 2020 Pastor Chip Anderson (203) 450-2299 / Email: ChipCPCtheHill@gmail.com

Imagine —For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7).

I. Rediscover God's Glory

Call to Worship — adapted from Psalm 89:1-5

I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For we say,

“Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness.”

You have said, “I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: ‘I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.’

Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

Let us sing a song of adoration and offer up praise to our Ascended King.

II. Rediscover God's Grace

Father, we have sung your praises, for your love endures forever. We recalled that your most holy and begotten Son, born of the virgin Mary, is come, your ultimate revelation of your divine love. We thank you for the privilege of bearing your love to the world. We confess we have often failed you in this mission. At times, we doubt. We have neglected. We have failed to offer love out of fear of rejection. Sometimes we have just been selfish. Forgive us, O Savior of the world, Savior of our souls. Rekindle this love. Restrengthen us so we might, once again, bear witness of your salvation in this dark world. Amen.

Bow your heads, take the time to offer your own confession of sins

The Word assures us of God's forgiveness

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love (Micah 7:18).

III. Renewal in Christ, Our King's Word

OT Readings—Isaiah 9:1-7

NT Reading—Romans 8:12-17

*The Word of the Lord . . . **Everyone:** Thanks be to God.*

Sermon: Adopted as Sons: The Best Christmas Story Ever (for God's Children)

VI. Renewal of Christ's Presence

Sharing our prayer requests and bringing them before our Father

Prayers for our children

Our profession of our faith together

Church, What is adoption? (WSC # 34)

Adoption is an act of God's free grace by which we are received into the number and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God

Affirming Christ's Presence as we share the Lord's Supper

V. Restored in Christ's Supremacy

A Prayer and the Words of Benediction

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!” (Luke 2:10-14)

And all God's people shout: **Amen!**

OT Reading—Isaiah 9:1-7: But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.
You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

NT Reading—Romans 8:12-17: So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord // The people: *Thanks be to God*

Announcements

- ➔ **Dec 23rd** — **In-person** Ladies Bible Study & Prayer at 158 @ 6:00pm. In-person Studies are the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month.
- ➔ **Dec 26th** — Children’s Read Aloud at Maxine’s continues on Steven’s Street, 1:00pm–3:00pm. This is for our neighborhood children to listen to a book read aloud together.
- ➔ **Dec 26th** — Saturday Sidewalk Breakfast & Sidewalk Church Service (122 Carlisle Street) Breakfast starts at 10am; church service starts at 10:20. We serve no matter the weather. Come join us!
- ➔ **Dec 27th** — Come join us again for next Sunday’s service of worship, instruction, and fellowship @ 10am (here at 158 Davenport Ave).
- ➔ **Dec 24th** — **Christmas Eve** Bon Fire Reading of the Luke 2 Christmas Story at 122 Carlisle Street @ 8:00pm at the Anderson’s (behind the apartment/in driveway).
- ➔ **Jan 5th** — **Next** Bonfire Bible Study @ the Anderson’s out back of 122 Carlisle Street (at 6pm)—*Learning to Follow Jesus a Little Deeper: Portraits of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke*