Christ Presbyterian Church

A Service of Thanksgiving
for Our Lord's Incarnation

Christmas Eve 2014

7:00 p.m.

Preparation for Worship

Prelude

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,
Your Father's will you have fulfilled.
From heaven above to earth you came,
And born as man you took our name.

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,
Your birth the world with hope has filled.
Your death has ransomed our lost race,
For on the cross you took our place.

O Jesus sweet, O Jesus mild,
We seek to do what you have willed.
All that we have comes from above;
Lord, keep us walking in your love.

Adoration of God

Trinitarian Confession and Salutation

Minister: We are gathered in the Name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19*
People: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth! *Psalm 124:8*
Minister: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father
and Christ Jesus our Lord! *1 Timothy 1:2b*
People: Amen!

Call to Worship

Minister: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
People: We have beheld his glory. Alleluia! *John 1:14*
Minister: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
People: Alleluia! *Luke 2:14*

↑ **Hymn 208** O Come, All Ye Faithful *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Prayer of Petition and Adoration**

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession of Sin Romans 5:8; Hebrews 4:16

God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners,
Christ died for us…

Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace,
that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Corporate Confession of Sin and Supplication for Mercy *(unison)*

Holy God, you sent a star
to guide the Magi to the child Jesus.
We confess that we have not followed the light of your Word.
We have not searched for signs of your love in the world
or trusted your good news to be good.
We have failed to praise your Son's birth
and refused his peace on earth.
We have expected little and hoped for less.
Forgive our doubt
and renew in us all fine desires,
that we may watch and wait
and once more hear the glad story of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, the Lord. *Amen.*

Declaration of Forgiveness Matthew 1:21

"[Mary] will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

↑ ***The Doxology*** (#731) *Trinity Hymnal*

Consecration Through The Word

Reading of Scripture John 1:14–18

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.'") And from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

1 John 1:1–4

Minister: We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life —

People: this life was revealed,
and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life
that was with the Father and was revealed to us —

Minister: we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have fellowship with us;
and truly our fellowship is with the Father
and with his Son Jesus Christ.

People: We are writing these things
so that our joy may be complete.

↑ **Hymn 217** All My Heart This Night Rejoices *Trinity Hymnal*

Affirmation of Faith

↑ Minister: Why is he called God's "only Son"
when we also are God's children?

People: Because Christ alone is the eternal,
natural Son of God.
We, however, are adopted children of God —
adopted by grace through Christ.

— Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 33

Minister: What does it mean that he
"was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary"?

People: That the eternal Son of God,
who is and remains true and eternal God,
took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit,
from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary,
a truly human nature
so that he might become David's true descendant,
in all things like us except for sin.

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 35

Minister: How does the holy conception
and birth of Christ benefit you?

People: He is our mediator,
and with his innocence and perfect holiness
he removes from God's sight my sin —
mine since I was conceived.

—Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 36

↑ **Hymn 162** Of the Father's Love Begotten *Trinity Hymnal*

Reading of Scripture Matthew 2:1–12

Homily from the Word Rev. John Canales

Response and Blessing

Prayer of Thanksgiving ***(unison)***

God of mystery and might,
we praise and worship you,
for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,
born of your handmaid Mary.
In his face we behold your glory,
for in his life as in his death is your gift of salvation.
Glory to you for your grace-filled love.
Glory to you, eternal God;
through Jesus Christ,
Lord of lords, and King of kings,
now and forever. Amen.

↑ **Hymn 203** Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Hymn 227** On Christmas Night All Christians Sing *Trinity Hymnal*

↑ **Hymn** Silent Night! Holy Night!

Silent night! Holy night! God of God, light of light,
Very God, begotten Son, with the Father's substance One,
Now as a mortal is born, now as a mortal is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Word of God, life and light!
He who fashioned heav'n and earth, through the Spirit, wondrous birth,
Now to a Virgin is born, now to a Virgin is born.

Silent night! Holy night! In the dark shone the light.
To his own in love he came. All who trusted in his name
Now are called children of God, now are called children of God!

Silent night! Holy night! Word made flesh, God's pure light
Dwelt with us, revealed his face, glorious fullness, truth and grace;
Praise our Immanuel's name, praise our Immanuel's name!

Silent night! Holy night! Spotless Lamb, pure as light,
For our sin the curse did take, bled and died for sinners' sake—
Worthy the Lamb that was slain! Worthy the Lamb that was slain!

↑ **The Benediction**