

SERMON SERIES
“SING IN EXULTATION”

Jesus was born into a weary world, bringing good news of great joy for all people. In a season of lament, his birth sparked joy and song from angels and elders, a new mother and an old priest. At Second Presbyterian, our Advent sermon series, “Sing in Exultation,” celebrates the good news of Jesus when and where we least expect it.

We welcome the Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults, to the pulpit today. Our Liturgists are Dr. George C. Anderson, Senior Pastor, and the Rev. Elizabeth N.H. Link, Executive Pastor.

Organist: Marianne Sandborg.

Ushers: Ginger Avis (Head Usher), Mia Copeland, Meagan Moore, Crystal Pearson.

AV Technician: Darin Pearson.

Flowers: Copies of the 2024 Poinsettia Memorials and Celebrations list may be requested from an usher or found at the front desk. The red poinsettias will remain in the sanctuary through tonight’s 10:00 p.m. service.

Join us for our Christmas Eve Family Worship Service at 5:00 p.m. and our Service of Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight at 10:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Looking for ways to stay connected to the church in the new year? Check out our official podcast of sermons, *Second on the Mount*, or our podcast for children and families, *Child of God with The Rev. Elizabeth Link*, and subscribe to never miss an episode! Listen wherever podcasts are found.



www.spres.org/connect/podcasts

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SECOND
PRESBYTERIAN

Finding direction by following Jesus.



Artwork by Pat Lawson.

Christmas Eve Noon Service

Pastoral Staff

Dr. George C. Anderson, Senior Pastor

The Rev. Elizabeth N.H. Link, Executive Pastor

The Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan, Associate Pastor for Youth and Young Adults

Christmas Eve Worship Service

DECEMBER 24, 2024 · 12:00 P.M. · SANCTUARY

Gathering Music *Christmas Meditation* Murray C. Bradshaw

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude *Gloria!* Gilbert M. Martin

*Call to Worship and Candle Lighting¹ Jeff, Morgan, Delaney, and Martin Morris

On this holy day, we gather as many –

As strangers and friends, as the faithful and the wondering,

We gather as many and as one community.

We come to seek the light, the hope, the Good News.

On this holy day,

we wait for God to come to us again.

We light the Christ candle, for the light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness does not overwhelm it.

Let us sing and worship the God who comes to us even now.

*Hymn No. 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we have been busy with preparations, parties, feasts, and giving. We are busy wrapping gifts and making sure we look our best. And we confess that our busyness is misplaced, spending our time on preparing for things rather than preparing for you. Draw us back. Tune our bodies to the rhythm of your coming. Tune our hearts to the song of your arrival. Tune our minds to the incomprehensible love you bring.

Comfort us in the silence, O Prince of Peace, as we offer our personal confession.

Sung Response No. 92 *While We Are Waiting, Come* (v. 1)

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.

Jesus, Our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.

Assurance of Pardon

*Response of Praise No. 110 *Love Has Come* (v. 1)

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

*Affirmation of Faith Adapted from the Scots Confession

When the fullness of time came God sent the Son, God's eternal wisdom, the substance of God's own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel, true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Psalms 96

Old Testament p. 482

Sermon²

Sing in Exultation: A New Song

Rev. Benjamin S. Brannan

Moment of Reflection

Call to Discipleship

The Manger Offering

We dedicate our 16th annual Manger Offering today to benefit Family Promise of Greater Roanoke, which serves those who temporarily find no room at the inn. Family Promise helps families struggling to overcome homelessness by providing them temporary housing and skills development.

Offertory

Meditation on "Silent Night"

Gilbert M. Martin

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Hymn of Preparation No. 110

Love Has Come (vv. 2-3)

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Holy Lord, just as you have shared your life and love with us, in body and spirit,
empower us to share our life and love with others as the body of Christ in the world.

Just as you have nourished us, in bread and cup,

equip us to nourish the lives of others as the body of Christ in the world.

In the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Hymn No. 136

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Gordon Young

**Please stand in body or spirit. | **All communion elements are gluten free.*

¹ Adapted from liturgies by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission.

² The Rev. Dr. Millie Snyder coined the idea of Christmas storytelling as "pretend angels" in her sermon on Christmas Eve 2019 at Myers Park Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC.

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