

**First Sunday of Christmas
December 29, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship**

Hob Pusey

Lift up your hearts in prayer:
lift up your voices in praise.
Let your eyes rise in expectation
and your hands in exultation,
for the Lord has drawn near
and dwells among us.
We lift them up. Amen.

 **Invocation**

Hob Pusey

Emmanuel, God with us,
you are our heart's delight.
Because of your amazing love,
you came to earth,
you became one of us,
you reached out to us while we were lost,
you rescued us from death,
you brought us salvation.
Your love is so high and wide and deep
that it, and only it, could reach this suffering world.
You came to bring an end to our sadness,
to dry our tears, to still our fears, to give us hope.
In deep gratitude we praise you.
We worship you for dwelling among us. **Amen.**

 **Opening Hymn 166**

We Three Kings

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Hob Pusey

Today we celebrate that Jesus, our Lord, came to earth as a human,
just like us but without sin. He came so that we who sin may be freed
from sin. With the peace that comes from knowing Jesus came,
let us confess our sins and be forgiven.

Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Hob Pusey

O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.

May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.

May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.

May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

We have carefully kept our gifts and have not freely given our goods and our hearts to you.

May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Hob Pusey

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.

—Luke 2:10-11, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

 **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents, and our money. so that our treasure is in heaven and our giving pleases God.

Offering

Offertory

 **Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts,
signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them
with our gratitude, that through us all people may know
the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. **Amen.**

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word



Preparation Hymn 136

The First Noel

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15

3 There is an occasion for everything,
and a time for every activity under heaven:
² a time to give birth and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to uproot;
³ a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to tear down and a time to build;
⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
⁵ a time to throw stones and a time to gather stones;
a time to embrace and a time to avoid embracing;
⁶ a time to search and a time to count as lost;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to be silent and a time to speak;
⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

⁹What does the worker gain from his struggles? ¹⁰I have seen the task that God has given the children of Adam to keep them occupied. ¹¹He has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also put eternity in their hearts, but no one can discover the work God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for them than to rejoice and enjoy the good life. ¹³It is also the gift of God whenever anyone eats, drinks, and enjoys all his efforts. ¹⁴I know that everything God does will last forever; there is no adding to it or taking from it. God works so that people will be in awe of him. ¹⁵Whatever is, has already been, and whatever will be, already is. However, God seeks justice for the persecuted.

Sermon

“A Time for Everything”
Rev. Paul Toms



Hymn of Response 141

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Responding
We respond to God's Word

 **Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.
The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.
He came to what was his own,
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who received him, who believed in his name,
he gave power to become children of God,
who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.
And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.**

—John 1:1-5, 9-14, NRSV

Prayers of the People *(Responsively)*

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!
Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:

Renew our lives by your presence.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation:

Release all into your promised freedom.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem:

May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:

Fulfill our desires in you.

Lord, have mercy.

O Christ, born of the virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor,

Mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:

May the whole world live in peace and justice.

Lord, have mercy.

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Hymn 155** *Once in Royal David's City*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**