

Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Large Print Bulletin



*The Sixth Presbyterian Church
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania*

1688 Murray Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15217
412-421-2752 / office@sixthchurch.org
www.sixthchurch.org

Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 26, 2021, 11:00 am
First Sunday after Christmas Day

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

*Call to Worship

Leader: Let us praise the name of the Lord! God commanded and we were created!

All: Leaders and followers, old and young, all of God's beloved children, all people everywhere as with the angels, let us come and praise the exalted name of the Lord. LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*Hymn "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" 136

*Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

All: Holy God, though we are in awe of the dawn of Your light in Jesus Christ, we remain self-centered and cling to the sin of the world. We celebrate the birth of our savior, yet we struggle in our commitment to follow him. We are called to pursue justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You; yet we are content to seek our own comfort and conveniently ignore the cries of those in need. By the light of the Christ child, lead us on a path of goodness and righteousness, as we seek to love all of Your bountiful creation.

Silent Confession

Hymn(seated) "From Heaven Above" 111, v. 1

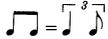
From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone!
Glad tidings of great joy I bring to all the world, and gladly sing

Assurance of Pardon and Commitment to Pass the Peace

*Hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" 119, v. 1

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king
"Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

136 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain 

Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

Like other material from oral traditions, 19th-century African American spirituals flourished without being written down. Their refrains were their most stable parts, and narrative stanzas were often improvised to fit. These Nativity stanzas attempt to recall that tradition.

Prayer for Illumination

All: By the breath of Your Spirit inspire us, that in the hearing of Your Word we may be filled with understanding and fresh desire to please You in all we do, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus. AMEN.

Hebrew Reading

I Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (pg. 305)

Epistle Reading

Colossians 3:12-17 (pg. 246)

Hymn (seated)

"The First Nowell"

147, vs. 1, 6

The first Nowell the angel did say

As to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord

Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,

That hath made heaven and earth of nought,

And with his blood our life hath bought.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

*Gospel Reading

Luke 2:41-52 (pg. 72)

Sermon

"Losing Jesus"

Rev. Vincent Kolb

*Hymn

"Once in Royal David's City"

140, vs. 1-2, 4

*Affirmation of Faith

Philippians 2:5-11

All: Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death — even death on a cross. Therefore, God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

...God of Love, draw us together in peace.

The Lord's Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,**

Once in Royal David's City 140

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and
 3 Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
 deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
 smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth, our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

Like "All Things Bright and Beautiful" (see no. 20), this popular Christmas hymn was written by an Irish poet to illustrate for children the various articles of the Apostles' Creed. It is not known which of several English villages the composer had in mind when naming this tune.

**thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
do not let us fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn (seated) "What Child is This"

145

*Doxology "O Come All Ye Faithful"

133 v. 3

**Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks, for God is good and God's Love is everlasting!

All: Thanks be to God - whose love creates us!

Thanks be to God - whose mercy redeems us!

Thanks be to God - whose grace leads us into the future!

*Hymn "Love Has Come"

110

*Benediction

*Hymn "From Heaven Above"

111, vs. 4

**"Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us the Christ has given."
With angels sing the Savior's birth,
A glad new year to all the earth.**

Postlude

**Those who can may stand*

145 What Child Is This

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

This Victorian text gains scope and power by having the original second halves of stanzas two and three restored. They give a stark forward glimpse of what lies ahead for this "babe, the son of Mary!" The tune is much older, dating from Tudor England.

Love Has Come

110

Capo 3: (D) (Bm7) (Em7) (A)
 F Dm7 Gm7 C

1 Love has come: a light in the dark - ness!
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der.
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us!

(D) (Bm7) (Em) (A7) (D)
 F Dm7 Gm C7 F

Love shines forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all
 Love is God now a - sleep in the hay. See the
 Love is life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is

(A) (D) (Bm) (D) (A) (G) (D)
 C F Dm F C B^b F

heav - en has come to pro - claim it; hear how their song of
 glow in the eyes of his moth - er; what is the name her
 Je - sus with - in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our

(Em7) (F#7) (G) (A) (Bm) (A7)
 Gm7 A7 B^b C Dm C7

joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a
 heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she
 hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of

(D) (A) (G) (A) (D) (A) (A7) (Dsus) (D)
 F C B^b C F C C7 Fsus F

Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
 whis - pers. Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el.
 Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Here is a chance to sing a familiar French carol tune with new words, the most important clearly being "Love." The senses "seen and heard" (as in Acts 4:20 and elsewhere) organize the first two stanzas, while the third holds the summary statement: "Love is the gift of Christmas."

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church

Sunday, December 26

Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 27

NA – Make a Change (7 pm)

Saturday, January 1

NA – Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, January 2

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 27

NA – Make a Change (7 pm)

Thursday, December 30

Choir rehearsal (7:30 pm)

Saturday, January 1

NA – Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, January 2

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Church Information and Announcements

We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

Sixth is a More Light Church: A network of people seeking and affirming the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Inclusive Language: Words matter. Jesus Christ, the living Word, reached out to all people to bring them into God's fold. The kingdom of God includes all people; therefore our language should reflect the inclusivity and equality among the people of God. To that end, when possible, we seek to eliminate the inherent bias of the English language toward the masculine gender without altering passages that reflect the historical situation of ancient patriarchal culture, out of which the Bible originated.

Masks: EVERYONE, vaccinated or not, is asked to wear a mask while inside the building.

Prayer Cards: If you would like to have a person named and prayed for during the pastoral prayer, please fill out one of the white cards by the bulletins/ushers and give it to Vincent prior to the service.

Recording Notice: This service is being livestreamed and is available online in perpetuity

Seating: While distancing is not required, we do encourage people to leave space as attendance allows and to be mindful of people's continued need for distance

Registration: We are glad for all who have come! Please fill out the friendship pad and leave it in the pew. We will use that information for contact tracing as needed.

COVID Exposure: If you test positive for COVID and you have been in the building within the week prior, please contact the office immediately so that we can conduct contact tracing

Church Nursery: There will be no nursery care today. It will resume on Sunday, January 9.

Sunday School and Extended Session: There will be no Sunday school or Extended Session today. Those offerings will resume January 9.

Virtual Sunday School: There will be no virtual Sunday school December 26, 30 or January 2. Thursday classes will resume January 6 and Sunday classes on January 9.

Youth Group: There will be no youth group 30. Meetings will resume January 6.

Adult Sunday School: Bill Guy's class meets Sundays at 9:30 am over Zoom. Contact Bill to receive the Zoom link and to be added to his email list.

Water of Baptism: Each Sunday we pour water into our baptismal font to reaffirm the covenant that God makes through this community of faith

Candles for Peace, Justice and Personal Prayers: You welcome to come forward to light a candle anytime during worship when words are not being spoken. Please maintain physical distance while waiting your turn.

Children and Candles: We love having children participate in the service, and we ask that—in order to maintain everyone's safety—you accompany your child while lighting candles.

Fellowship: We are not providing coffee or other refreshments after worship at this time

Today's Service: Patty Halverson (liturgist); Noah Twiss (livestreaming); Barb Parees, Pamela Twiss, Tom Twiss (ushers)

Bible Study: Pastor Vincent's weekly Bible study of the lectionary texts meets Wednesdays at 10:30 am over Zoom. Contact the office to be added to the email update list.

While the Pastor's Away: Pastor Vincent will be away December 27-January 3. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Jenny Newman (412-720-6392 / jennyrunew@gmail.com).

Next Week: Charissa Howe preaching

Stewardship Campaign Update: The Stewardship Committee extends enormous gratitude for all the pledges we have received for 2022. We are currently at 96% of our Campaign Goal of \$347,609. If you have not already submitted your pledge, please either mail in your pledge card, fill out the form on the church's website, or e-mail Amy (office@sixthchurch.org) with your 2022 Stewardship Pledge amount. Please remember that if you make your contributions by e-Give, we still need to know your pledge amount, since e-Give does not notify us. Thank you for being On This Road Together.

Session Members

Class of 2021/2022

Kit Ayars
Carol Emerson
Linda May
Jan Myers-Newbury
Phyllis Rupert

Class of 2022/2023

Larry Chan
Frank Davoli
Beth Hazlett
Pam Howe
Mary Lang

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Lori King
Tom Juring
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Deacons

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Kathi Robinson-Dassel
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Lynn Kawaratani
Eliot Kennedy
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Martha Funderburgh
Patty Halverson
Gwen Harcar

Vincent Kolb, *Pastor*

Jenny Newman, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

Gail Luley, *Music Director*

Amy Whipple, *Office Manager*

Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*

Myra Kazanjian, *Parish Associate*

John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*