

# Order of Worship

Christmas Day

**December 25, 2022**

---

## **Call to worship** *(Luke 2:10-11)*

Leader: Do not be afraid; for see I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

**People: To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

## **Call to confession**

Today marks a new beginning with the birth of Christ. Let us confess the sins that have kept us from glorifying and enjoying our God.

## **Prayer of confession**

Gracious God, you call us to celebrate the birth of our newborn savior. Yet we find the suffering and despair of our world depressing. Our hearts grow hard with hopelessness. What reason is there to rejoice? We question your power even on this Christmas day. Emmanuel, return us to faith. Help us resist the overwhelming forces that drag us down. Lift our spirits so we can see and appreciate the gift of God-with-us. Amen.

## **Assurance of pardon** *(Psalm 103:17)*

"The steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting."  
Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

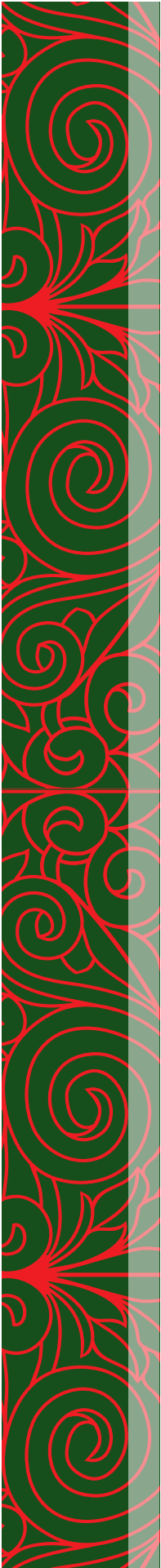
## **Prayer for illumination**

Savior God, liberate us from the sins which distort our vision and disrupt our hearing as we approach your Word. Standing firm in your love, let us open ourselves to the truth you reveal to us today. Amen.

## **Scripture readings**

## **Sermon**





**Affirmation of faith** (*Apostles' Creed*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Call for the offering**

In gratitude for the gift of Christ our Savior, let present our  
tithes and offerings to God.

**Prayer of dedication**

Emmanuel, in gratitude for the gift of your presence with and among us,  
we present these offerings to you. Accept and bless these gifts so that  
they might spread the joy of Christmas to others. Amen.

**Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

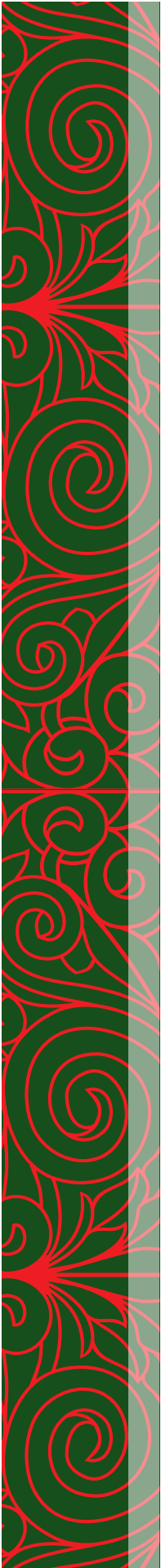
Emmanuel,  
The poet Madeleine L'Engle writes what we know well:

“This is no time for a child to be born  
with the earth betrayed by war and hate.”

Yet, you, O God, risk being born in a world such as this. You risk taking on  
flesh that is fragile, vulnerable and new. Oh, wonder of wonders and joy  
of joys! Everlasting God, your presence gives us hope this Christmas day.

As we shuffle into pews and pulpit today, some in pajamas or weary  
from late night Christmas Eve worship, we come to give you honor  
and praise. We come grateful for all the good gifts with which we have  
been blessed. We come to pray for those who are especially in need  
of hope this day.





Help us, Prince of Peace, to respond to your extraordinary love with love of our own. Help us be present today with family, friends and loved ones, while remembering those for whom this holiday surfaces pain and loss. As you have reached out to us in the birth of Jesus Christ, may reach out to others. Hear our petitions for those in need of your presence and hope.

Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for our world.

We pray for an end to the ongoing war in Ukraine. We pray for the women of Iran. We pray for those terrorized by extremists, those longing for peaceful solutions to age old conflicts. We pray for the oppressed in need of liberation. We pray for evil powers to be overthrown, for wrongs to be made right, for those thirsty for justice to be satisfied.

Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for our community.

Gracious God, bind us together in faith and service. Enlighten us to the needs and the needy in our communities. Organize us for action to solve systemic problems. Help us make room in our communities for weary travelers, people like Mary and Joseph in need of a safe place to stay. Help us make room for those who long to belong but feel left out in the cold.

Emmanuel, hear us as we pray for friends and loved ones.

God of compassion, bless us and those we love. Heal those suffering from the illnesses of this winter season — RSV, flu and the ever-present threat of COVID-19. Comfort those who have recently lost loved ones, those mourning empty seats at holiday tables. Renew those needing respite, strengthen them with holiday sabbath.

Mighty God, whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, accept our requests and further those which will bring about your purpose for our world.

Finally, hear us as we pray together the prayer Christ taught us, **“Our Father...”**

### **Charge and benediction**

“Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king!”

Proclaim the good news of Christ’s birth to all the world.

May the grace, hope, peace and love of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with us all, now and forever. Amen.

© Presbyterian Outlook, 2022

Liturgy written by Teri McDowell Ott  
and provided for free distribution.

For more resources,  
visit [pres-outlook.org](https://pres-outlook.org)



THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK