

## Order of Public Worship of God

The Thirty-First Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty-Three

*First Sunday of Christmas*

### PRELUDE

“But afterwards there occurred violent earthquakes and floods; and in a single day and night of misfortune... the island of Atlantis in like manner disappeared in the depths of the sea.”

- Plato, *Timaeus-Critias*

“I’m very concerned that our society is much more interested in information than wonder; in noise rather than silence. How do we... encourage reflection? Oh my, this is a noisy world!”

- Fred Rogers, Interview with Charlie Rose (September 20, 1994)

“The higher goal of spiritual living is not to amass a wealth of information, but to face sacred moments.”

- Abraham Joshua Heschel, *The Sabbath*



### OPENING PRAYER

**Lord of Creation**

**Bless this liturgy, our worshipful work:**

**fill the forms to fit our hearts for Heaven**

**Breathe your Spirit**

**into Word, Sacrament, and Prayer**

**That we might be renewed in Your image**

**and bring glory to Your Name.**

**Amen.**

### † HYMN OF WORSHIP | “Angels From the Realms of Glory”

**Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o’er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation’s story  
Now proclaim Messiah’s birth:**

*Refrain:*

**Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King!**

**Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
Watching o’er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light: *(refrain)***

**Sinners, wrung with true repentance,  
Doomed for guilt to endless pains;  
Justice now revokes the sentence,  
Mercy calls you, break your chains: *(refrain)***

**Saints, before the altar bending,  
Watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending,  
In his temple shall appear: *(refrain)***

**Though an Infant now we view him,  
He shall fill his Father’s throne;  
Gather all the nations to him,  
Every knee shall then bow down: *(refrain)***

### † CALL TO WORSHIP | Psalm 1

Blessed is the man  
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor stands in the way of sinners,  
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

**but his delight is in the law of the Lord,  
and on his law he meditates day and night.**

He is like a tree

planted by streams of water  
that yields its fruit in its season,  
and its leaf does not wither.

**In all that he does, he prospers.**

The wicked are not so,

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,  
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

**for the Lord knows the way of the righteous,  
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

### † HYMNS OF THANKSGIVING | “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

**A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.**

**Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing,  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God’s own choosing.  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;  
Lord Sabbaoth, his name, from age to age the same,  
And he must win the battle.**

**And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed his truth to triumph through us.  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure;  
One little word shall fell him.**

**That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through him who with us sideth.  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still;  
His kingdom is forever.**

“The First Noel”

**The first Noel, the angel did say  
Was 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!**

**They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
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 mankind has bought.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!**

### INVOCATION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
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,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.**

### GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### MUSICAL OFFERING

### † CORPORATE PROFESSION OF FAITH | The 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 is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there He will 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 life everlasting.  
Amen.**

### † 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. Amen.**

### † GREETING

*Junior Worship begins for children age four through first grade. Please escort children to the following classrooms.  
Preschool - Room 10; Kindergarten and First Grade - Room 9. Children will return to sit with their families  
before communion.*

### READING OF GOD’S WORD | Psalm 46

This is the Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

SERMON | Sanctuary: Psalms of the Soul Room  
Sermon - "Stillness and Knowledge"  
- Rev. Joshua Smith

PRAYER FOR GRACE AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

SILENT CONFESSION

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

**Most merciful God,**  
**We confess that we have sinned against you**  
**in thought, word, and deed,**  
**by what we have done,**  
**and by what we have left undone.**  
**We have not loved you with our whole heart;**  
**we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**  
**We are truly sorry and we earnestly repent.**  
**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**  
**have mercy on us and forgive us;**  
**that we may delight in your will,**  
**and walk in your ways,**  
**to the glory of your Name.**  
**Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Act 5:30-32

"The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

**How do we take communion at St. Patrick?**

*When directed, please come forward to receive the bread and the cup. The white chalices contain wine; the darker ones on the tables have grape juice. The crackers on the tables are gluten-free. The elder will distribute the bread and then follow with the wine chalice. We will practice intinction, where you will dip the bread in the wine. If you prefer grape juice or need gluten-free bread, indicate your preference when the elder comes to you, then go to the table for your elements. After receiving communion, you will proceed to the outside aisle to return to your seats.*

**Who comes to the Table?**

*Communion is open to all baptized believers who have made a profession of faith in Jesus. If you have children who have not made a profession of faith, they are not ready to partake of the elements, but please bring them forward to be blessed by one of our elders. If you are not a believer but want to know more about Jesus, you are invited to come forward and simply bypass the table, letting one of the leaders know that you would like to learn more about what it means to know and belong to Jesus.*

† HYMN OF ASSURANCE | "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come,**  
**Let earth receive her King;**  
**Let every heart prepare him room,**  
**And heaven and nature sing,**  
**And heaven and nature sing,**  
**And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**  
  
**Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns,**  
**Let men their songs employ;**  
**While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains**  
**Repeat the sounding joy,**  
**Repeat the sounding joy,**  
**Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,**  
**Nor thorns infest the ground;**  
**He comes to make his blessings flow**  
**Far as the curse is found,**  
**Far as the curse is found,**  
**Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,**  
**And makes the nations prove**  
**The glories of his righteousness,**  
**And wonders of his love,**  
**And wonders of his love,**  
**And wonders, and wonders of his love.**

† BENEDICTION | 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

"Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it."**

*Scripture tells us to make our needs known to God, and to call others to pray with and for us. If you would like prayer, elders will be standing in the front of the sanctuary (pulpit side) immediately following the service to pray with you.*



**Helpful Links:**



*If you are new to St. Patrick or have a prayer request, please fill out the portion below. You may place your liturgy in the offering plate or in the designated basket in the Narthex as you leave.*

NEW HERE?	
Name	_____
Phone	_____
Email	_____
NEED PRAYER?	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
_____	
<b>Mailing address:</b> P.O. Box 1087, Collierville, TN 38027 <b>Church Location:</b> 710 West White Road, Collierville, TN 38017 <b>Phone:</b> 901-861-3803 <b>Website:</b> www.StPatrickPres.com <b>Facebook:</b> com/stpatrickpres <b>Twitter:</b> @StPatrickPres	

# ST. PATRICK

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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EPC



LOVING GOD. LOVING PEOPLE. LOVING LIFE.