

New St. Peter's Presbyterian Church
Celebration of Worship
December 17, 2017

Striking of the Hour (*“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”*)

Call to Worship (Micah 5)

You, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel.

Liturgy of the Word (Micah 5 and John 1, 7)

His coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. **For in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** He was in the beginning with God and all things were made through Him. **And now the eternal Word has become flesh. Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?**

Hymn: *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Hymn: *“Good Christian Men Rejoice”*

Confession of Sin and Plea for Pardon (Micah 6)

O LORD our God, we deserve to hear from You, “O My people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you?” **For the desires of our hearts and our actions make plain that we think too little of Your love and salvation. Though You have delivered us from slavery to sin, we often return to it like a long lost friend. Because of Your unquenchable desire to always bless us, You have defeated Satan and all those who would curse us. Yet we would rather bless ourselves than walk in Your blessing. We seek to make penance with a multitude of sacrifices, but You have told us that Christ is more than sufficient. So help us, O God, to believe that, and let us rest in His finished work by faith.**

Worshippers may continue to confess their sins in silence.

Assurance of Pardon (Micah 7)
and Intercessory Prayer

People of God, the LORD has pled your case and has executed judgment on your behalf upon His Son. **He has brought us out to the light of His grace in**

Christ. In looking upon Him, we can see our vindication. He has again had compassion on us because in Christ He has tread our iniquities underfoot and has cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. Praise be to His name! Amen.

New Testament Reading

A reading from the Gospel of John: Jesus answers eager disciples, explaining the work that God requires of them. (John 6:25-34)

Sharing the Peace of Christ

May the peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Doxology (“*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*”)

Sermon: “*Unexpected Advent: Micah’s Story*” (Micah 5 & 6)

The Definition of Chalcedon (AD 451)

Following the holy fathers, **we together confess the one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in deity and complete in humanity, truly God and truly man with a rational soul and a body. He is of one substance with the Father in His deity, and at the same time of one substance with us in His humanity. He is like us in all respects, apart from sin. As regards His deity, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards His humanity begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer. We also confess this one and the same Christ – Son, Lord, Only-begotten – in two natures without confusion, change, division or separation between them. They are together one and the same Son and only begotten Logos of God, the Lord Jesus Christ. This the prophets of old testified, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.**

Words of Institution and Fencing the Table (Isaiah 7, 11 and 1 Corinthians 11)

The Lord Himself has given a sign. Behold, the virgin conceived and bore a Son, and His name is Immanuel, for God is with us.

The body of Christ was given for us. We break this bread together in remembrance of Him.

A shoot has come forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots has born fruit.

The fruit of that branch has filled this cup of the new covenant which is the blood of Christ. We drink it together in remembrance of Him.

Come to the Table...

Communion Hymn: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Communion Hymn: *“As with Gladness Men of Old”*

Communion Hymn: *“What Child is This”*

Communion Hymn: *“In Christ Alone”*

Parting Liturgy (Micah 5)

Church, take comfort. For Jesus shall stand and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. **And so we shall dwell secure, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth. He shall be our peace!**

Benediction (Micah 4)

In that day, declares the LORD, “I will assemble the lame and gather those who have been driven away. The lame I will make a remnant, and those who were cast off, a strong nation. And I will reign over them in Mount Zion from this time forth and forevermore!”

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.