

New St. Peter's Presbyterian Church
Celebration of Worship
December 31, 2017

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

Call to Worship (Psalm 68)

Sing to God, sing praise to His name! Extol Him who rides on the clouds – His name is the LORD – and rejoice before Him!

Liturgy of the Word (Nehemiah 9)

Blessed be His glorious name, and may it be exalted above all blessing and praise!
He alone is the LORD! He made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. **He gives life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship Him!**

Invocation

Hymn: *“O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing”*

Hymn: *“O The Deep, Deep Love of Jesus”*

Confession of Sin and Plea for Pardon (Malachi 1, 2, 3)

O Lord our God, forgive our sins we pray, for they are greater than we can see. **Ever faithful to Your promises, You have loved us from ages past, yet we have questioned and doubted Your love. You are holy and worthy of honor, yet we have shown contempt for Your ways. You are thorough with justice, yet we have wearied You with our cynical, self-serving doubts. And You patiently call us to repentance, yet we distract ourselves with our possessions. Forgive us Father! Teach us to rightly fear You and to honor Your name. Include us in Your scroll of remembrance, and help us to stand on the day of Your coming.**

Worshippers may continue to confess their sins in silence.

Assurance of Pardon (Malachi 3)
and Intercessory Prayer

You who fear the LORD and honor His name with repentance, He has listened and heard your prayer. **“They will be mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as**

a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more shall be seen the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.” Thanks be to God! Amen.

New Testament Reading

A reading from Matthew: Jesus clarifies His own mission by explaining the role of John the Baptist. (Matthew 11:1-14)

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: Malachi’s Story*” (Malachi 2:17-3:7, 4:5-6)

Nicene Creed (AD 325)

We believe in one God, the Father All-Sovereign, maker of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only-begotten, that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, True God of True God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made, things in heaven and things on the earth; who for us men and for our salvation came down and was made flesh, and became man, suffered and rose on the third day, ascended into the heavens, and is coming to judge the living and the dead;

And we believe in the Holy Spirit.

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: *“Rock of Ages”*

Communion Hymn: *“God of My Life to Thee I Call”*

Communion Hymn: *“Psalm 126”*

Communion Hymn: *“Amazing Grace”*

Parting Liturgy (1 Peter 1)

In God’s salvation you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may suffer grief in all kinds of trials. **These have come so that our faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed!**

Benediction (1 Peter 1)

Though you do not now see Him, may you believe in Him and love Him, and so be filled with glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls!

Come quickly, Lord Jesus! Amen.