

ORDER OF WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP

THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR

MEDITATION AND PREPARATION

Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 23:1-3, "The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside quiet waters. He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Minister: Lift up your hearts unto the Lord!

Congregation: **We lift them up!**

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High
Celebration Hymnal #278

CONFESSION OF SIN

THE LAW OF GOD

Deuteronomy 5:12-15, "Observe the sabbath day to keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter or your male servant or your female servant or your ox or your donkey or any of your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you, so that your male servant and your female servant may rest as well as you. You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out of there by a mighty hand and by an outstretched arm; therefore, the LORD your God commanded you to observe the sabbath day."

Private Confession

Corporate Confession

Minister: We make this, our corporate confession, unto God:

All: **"We have allowed this generous commandment to become a burden to ourselves. We have vainly searched for spiritual rest in worldly ordinances rather than in the Lord's Day. We have failed to guard our observance of the Lord's Day by neglecting the duties of our work week. Forgive us for our failure to keep this commandment, O God."** (Westminster Presbyterian Church, Vincennes, IN)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

John 10:11, 17-18, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... For this reason, the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father."

Minister: Your sins are forgiven through Christ.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

DOXOLOGY

Glory Be to the Father
Tune: GREATOREX
Celebration Hymnal #813

CONSECRATION

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

Isaiah 40:1-11, "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, 'Behold your God!' Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young."

Lighting the Shepherd Candle

Luke 2:8-14, "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!'"

Titus 3:3-7, "For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

Congregation: **Amen.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

Minister: We make these petitions, ending with the prayer our Lord taught us to pray:

All:

**"Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your 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 do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the
power and the glory forever.
Amen."** (Matthew 6:9-13, NKJV)

PSALM

Psalm 98

Tune: AZMON

Celebration Hymnal #21

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1 O sing a new song to the LORD
For wonders He has done,
His right hand and His holy arm
The victory have won.

2 The great salvation wrought by Him
Jehovah has made known.
His justice in the nations' sight
The Lord has clearly shown.

3 He mindful of His grace and truth
To Isr'el's house has been.
The great salvation of our God
All ends of earth have seen.

4 O all the earth, sing to the LORD
And make a joyful sound.
Lift up your voice aloud to Him;
Sing psalms! Let joy resound!

5 With harp make music to the LORD;
With harp a psalm O sing!

6 With horn and trumpet raise a shout
Before the LORD, the King.

7 Let seas in all their vastness roar,
The world its living horde.

8 Let rivers clap, let mountains sing
Their joy before the LORD!

9 Because He comes, He surely comes
The judge of earth to be!
With justice he will judge the world
All men with equity.

SERMON

The Advent of Our Lord

The Shepherds of the Advent

Luke 2:8-9

HYMN

The First Noel

Celebration Hymnal #265

COMMUNION

(Once a Month | Next Observance is December 26)

COMMISSIONING

BENEDICTION

Minister: 1 Peter 5:14, "Greet one another with the kiss of love.

Peace to all of you who are in Christ."

All: Amen.

Postlude

In the foyer, a plate is designated for tithes and offerings.

SERVICES

THE LORD'S DAY

Morning Worship 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Fellowship Meal 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

WEDNESDAY

Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM – 7:40 PM

LEADERSHIP

PASTORS

Rev. Lucas Mann, *Teaching Elder*

Phone: 864-909-7564

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Rev. Travis Gosnell, *Co-Elder*

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DEACONS

Tommy Bryant, *Chairman*

Jerry Crawford

Deck Balentine, *Music Director*

Mike Posey, Jr.

SECRETARY

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PIANIST

Ella Barton



POPLAR SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH

est. 1794

The Lord's Day, December 19th, 2021

The Fourth Sunday of Advent