Prayer for Use Before Worship

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being:
You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless
until they rest in you. Give us purity of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see clearly,
and in your service find perfect freedom; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.



Carmel Presbyterian Church First Sunday of Christmas January 1, 2023 10:00 AM

Greeting and Announcements

Prelude

Forest Green (O Little Town of Bethlehem)

Dale Wood

* Call to Worship

The Christ child is born! All you who would find him, prepare for a journey, as determined as the Magi. All you who would praise him, come with the faith to follow but a star. All you who would worship him, come with humility to the child who shows forth the immeasurable riches of God.

* HYMN 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Regent Square

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you and one another in both our actions and our inactions. We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come, yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light. Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us the veil of darkness that shrouds our lives. Illumined by your Word and sacrament, may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

* Hymn 567 Gloria Padri "Glory to the Father" John Weaver Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Amen.

* Passing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. And also with you.

^{*} Please stand if you are able.

Prayer for Illumination

God of light and life, open our eyes as well as our ears, so that we may not only hear your Word preached today but then see your Word lived out in our lives and in your world, through Christ, our Lord, the light of the world. Amen.

First Testament Reading

The first reading is Isaiah 63:7-9. Listen for the Word of God to You.

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us, and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

For he said, "Surely they are my people,
children who will not deal falsely";
and he became their savior
in all their distress.

It was no messenger or angel
but his presence that saved them;
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

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

Epistle Reading

Our epistle reading is Romans 8:26-39. Listen for the Word of God to you.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

Gospel Reading

Our gospel reading is Matthew 2:13-23. Listen for the Word of God to you:

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Sermon "God's Unbreakable Resolutions" Robert Emberger

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Inspired by the promise of God's Word, let us give our thanks and praise – so we may continue God's work as we move into God's week.

*HYMN 307

"Fight the Good Fight"

Duke Street

Invitation to the Offering

(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church to the community—both local and global. Please place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the sanctuary, give online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)

Offertory

O Magnum Mysterium Meg Vandegrift, soprano soloist Morten Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium,

et admirabile sacramentum

ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentum in praesepio!

Beata Virgo, cujus viscera

meruerunt portare

Dominum Christum, Alleluia!

O great mystery,

and wondrous sacrament,

that animals should see the newborn

Lord, lying in their manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb

was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

*Doxology 592

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Old Hundredth

*Prayer of Dedication

Bright Morning Star, your light has come, and your birth, O Jesus, has overwhelmed us with joy. Like the Magi of long ago, may we be drawn to you and offer you such gifts as we are able. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving for the Work of God in Creation

HYMN 581

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Joseph Roff

Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

....Life's greatest feast is before us, we excitedly proclaim:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Prayer for the Work of the Spirit and Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution and Distribution of the Elements

Communion Music

In the Bleak Midwinter

Wilbur Held

Prayer after Communion (unison)

With praise on our lips and love in our hearts for you, O Lord our God, we have gathered around your Table! Accept our songs of praise as sweet offerings to you for your steadfast love and faithfulness. Purify our hearts as you hear our songs. Help us to hear your call in our lives, and even as we hear, to respond with faith and commitment. Guide us to love you more deeply. Lead us to love one another more. Help us to love others with the kind of love you have shown toward us. We praise you and give you our love. Praise the name of the Lord! Amen.

*Hymn 51

See Amid the Winter's Snow

Humility

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude The First Nowell Ashley Grote

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^{*} Charge and Benediction

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE CORDIALLY WECOME for our New Years Day service Rev. Bob Emberger. Bob was born and raised in Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Lincoln High School, Cairn University (formerly Philadelphia College of Bible), Biblical Theological Seminary (now Mission Seminary), and holds a doctorate in pastoral counseling from Westminster Theological Seminary. Bob served as the Executive Director of the Whosoever Gospel Mission for 33 years from February 1989 until March 2022. He continues to serve at the Mission in a part-time capacity as Director of Advancement.

THERE WILL BE NO COFFEE HOUR TODAY!

WE ALSO WELCOME those who are visiting today. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will join with us again. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with a Pastor if you are interested in membership. A Virtual Fellowship Time is also possible on Zoom. And, restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building. Welcome!

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering Nursery Care and Children's Worship (Grades K-3) during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire nursery care for your child during Sunday worship, please call the Church Office by Friday noon, so that the nursery is staffed. Children's Worship does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the Children's Message. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children's Worship leader.

THIS MORNING THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY are given in loving memory of Wes Rose, always and forever in our hearts, by the Rose Family.

YOUR 2023 PLEDGE AND GIVING ENVELOPES – Be sure to pick up your Stewardship offering envelopes. A financial pledge to Carmel is an expression of your faith, investment, and commitment to our mission. Pledges provide stability to budgeting so planning is possible for the year ahead.

CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) INVITES YOUTH IN GRADES 3-8! — Carmel Youth Ministry **(CYM)** welcomes all kids in Grades 3-8. It meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30—7:30 in Carmel Hall. Fun, fellowship, and growing together as a group guides the group and leaders. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you. NOTE: there will be no group meeting this Wednesday.

MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL'S BALCONY – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. Join us in the new season of singing and ringing.

- **Children's Choir**, for anyone in Grades K-2, Wednesdays, 5:00 PM 5:40 PM.
- Junior Choir, for anyone in Grades 3-8, Wednesdays, 5:45 PM 6:30 PM
- Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9-12, Sundays, 11:15 AM 11:45 AM
- Sanctuary Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, Thursdays, 7:30 PM 8:30 PM
- Handbell Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, Mondays 7:30 PM 8:30 PM

SPEND SOME TIME WITH CARMEL'S NEW AND GREATLY IMPROVED WEBSITE! Explore the wealth of information at www.presbycarmel.org. Photos of our recent "Candlelight Carol Service" are now up on the Carmel Web! Easily find links for the current livestream worship, past services, the daily lectionary, or to send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and find out the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE several spots you can assist. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign-up on-line here: https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! Live Streaming Worship continues on YouTube, via Zoom on the phone and on Zoom for virtual fellowship following worship for those unable to attend in-person worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. See below!

Participating in Worship this Morning

Robert Emberger, Supply Pastor
Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music
Lynne Schutt, Worship Leader
Ken Schuyler and Katey Schuyler, Ushers
Walt Newman and Rod Hackman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency
Procedure (CPEP) Members
Jay Raulinaitis, Dave Rice and Tom Bohlander, Live-Streaming Operators

Welcome to Sunday Morning Worship (Also, live streamed at 10:00 am)

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljlDvsRw

Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409

and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

"Virtual Fellowship Time" may be accessed on Zoom only after the service ends.

Carmel Presbyterian Church

100 Edge Hill Road Glenside, PA 19038 215-887-1074 www.presbycarmel.org

COMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK:

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1 FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

Happy New Year! Worship in Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 AM No Coffee Hour in Carmel Hall

MONDAY, JANUARY 2

Church Office is closed for the holiday Nursery School on break

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Rev. John M. Diller begins Nursery School resumes

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4

Staff Meeting, 10:30 AM, Children's Choir (grades K-2), 5:00-5:40 PM, Choir Room & Sanctuary Junior Choir (grades 3-8), 5:45-6:30 PM, Choir Room & Sanctuary Refuge, 6:30-7:30 PM, Carmel Hall

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Sanctuary Choir, 7:30-9:00 PM, Choir Room & Sanctuary

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Remove decorations from Sanctuary

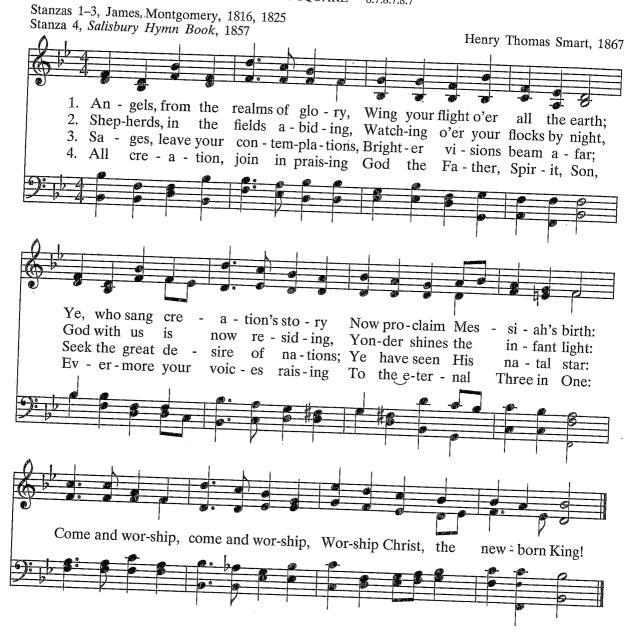
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Worship in Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming) 10:00 AM, including the Ordination and Installation of new Church Officers Coffee Hour, 11:00 AM Carmel Hall

22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7



Glory to the Father



*May be sung as a canon.

J=58-63

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307

Fight the Good Fight

DUKE STREET LM



592 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow





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Ι.

See Amid the Winter's Snow

HUMILITY 7.7.7.7 with refrain

