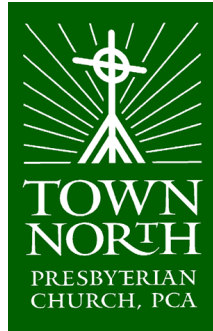


*Town North is a community of disciples
making disciples of Jesus.*



The Week's Order of
WORSHIP
for
THE LORD'S DAY

December 11, 2022 10:30 A.M.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REFLECTION

“For whomever the Lord has adopted and deemed worthy of his fellowship ought to prepare themselves for a hard, toilsome, and unquiet life, crammed with very many and various kinds of evil. It is the Heavenly Father’s will thus to exercise them so as to put his own children to a definite test. Beginning with Christ, his firstborn, he follows this plan with all his children.”

-John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, Book 3, Chapter 8, Section 1, (Ford Lewis Battles translation), Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1960.

PRELUDE

Lynna Harbison

ACTIVITIES & CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

David Rogers, Pastor

(Please sign, pass & return the black attendance pad at the end of the aisle)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Hendricks Family

INTROIT

Adult Choir
Clay Cox, trumpet

A Proclamation for Advent

Prepare the way, the way of the Lord!
Make straight a highway for our God.
Prepare the way, the way of the Lord!
Lift your voice, for the birth of Christ is near.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set Thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us.
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth Thou art;
desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Prepare the way, the way of the Lord!
Make straight a highway for our God.
Prepare the way, the way of the Lord!
Lift your voice, for the birth of Christ is near.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 57:1-3, 5

LEADER: Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me,
for in you my soul takes refuge;

PEOPLE: **in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge,
till the storms of destruction pass by.**

LEADER: I cry out to God Most High,
to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

PEOPLE: **He will send from heaven and save me;
he will put to shame him who tramples on me.**

LEADER: God will send out this steadfast love and his faithfulness!

PEOPLE: **Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth!**

* PRAYER OF INVOCATION

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Hymn 198 (vv 1-6)

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates!
Behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near,
the Savior of the world is here. | 4 Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy. |
| 2 A helper just he comes to thee,
his chariot is humility,
his kingly crown is holiness,
his scepter, pity in distress. | 5 Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide!
Let me thy inner presence feel;
thy grace and love in me reveal. |
| 3 O blest the land, the city blest,
where Christ the Ruler is confessed!
O happy hearts and happy homes
to whom this King in triumph comes! | 6 So come, my Sovereign, enter in!
Let new and nobler life begin!
Thy Holy Spirit, guide us on,
until the glorious crown be won. |

CALL TO CONFESSION OF SIN

1 Peter 4:12

LEADER: Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

ALL: **Most gracious and merciful God, forgive us. You have called us to follow Jesus, but we often seek comfort rather than following His will through suffering. You promised trials, but we are often surprised when we face them. Instead of joyfully sharing in Christ's sufferings, we complain and look for escape. Restore us through the grace you promised in your Son Jesus. Amen**

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

In these moments, we individually come to God in prayer, silently confessing personal sins so that we may take hold of the forgiveness won for us by Christ, our Redeemer.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON AND PEACE WITH GOD

Hebrews 2:9

LEADER: But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

* SONG OF RESPONSE

Ensemble & Congregation

Jesus, I Come

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of my sickness into thy health,
out of my wanting and into thy wealth,
out of my sin and into thyself,
Jesus, I come to thee.</p> <p>2 Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of thy cross,
Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into thy balm,
out of life's storms and into thy calm,
out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to thee.</p> | <p>3 Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of myself to dwell in thy love,
out of despair into raptures above,
upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to thee.</p> <p>4 Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of thy home,
Jesus, I come to thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
into the peace of thy sheltering fold,
ever thy glorious face to behold,
Jesus, I come to thee.</p> |
|---|--|

PRAYING TOGETHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

David Rogers, Pastor

* PREPARING TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn 598 (vv 1-3)

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

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|---|--|
| <p>1 Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy pow'ful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.</p> <p>2 Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through;
strong Deliv'rer, strong Deliv'rer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.</p> | <p>3 When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side;
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.</p> |
|---|--|

1 Peter 4:12-19

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³ But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴ If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. ¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. ¹⁶ Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name. ¹⁷ For it is time for judgment to begin at the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And

“If the righteous is scarcely saved,
what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

¹⁹ Therefore let those who suffer according to God's will entrust their souls to a faithful Creator while doing good.

LEADER: This is the Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

APPLYING GOD'S WORD

David Rogers, Pastor

“Don't Be Surprised”

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Grape juice is in the purple cups in the center of the tray. Wine is in the clear cups around the outside of the tray. The matzo bread is gluten free.

Please hold the elements until everyone is served. Used cups may be placed in the baskets in the narthex after the service.

* RESPONDING IN SONG

Hymn 95 (vv 1-4)

Though Troubles Assail Us

- 1 Though troubles assail us and dangers affright,
though friends should all fail us and foes all unite,
yet one thing secures us, whatever betide,
the promise assures us, "The Lord will provide."
- 2 The birds, without garner or storehouse, are fed;
from them let us learn to trust God for our bread.
His saints what is fitting shall ne'er be denied
so long as 'tis written, "The Lord will provide."
- 3 When Satan assails us to stop up our path,
and courage all fails us, we triumph by faith.
He cannot take from us, though oft he has tried,
this heart-cheering promise, "The Lord will provide."
- 4 No strength of our own and no goodness we claim;
yet, since we have known of the Savior's great name,
in this our strong tower for safety we hide:
the Lord is our power, "The Lord will provide."

* BENEDICTION

James 1:12

PASTOR: Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Lynna Harbison

ACTIVITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY	Prayer for Worship—CE Rm 201	8:15 a.m.
	Sunday School for all ages—CE Building	9:30 a.m.
	Worship—Worship Center	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Group Christmas Card Delivery	1:00 p.m.
	Lessons and Carols—Worship Center	6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY	Deacon Meeting	6:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Prayer—Admin Rm 103	7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	Men’s Bible Study—Fellowship Hall	7:00 p.m.

Church activity calendar is available online at www.tnpc.org/events

LIVESTREAM AUDIO ACCESS

1. Go to www.tnpc.org
2. Click on the box that says: “Livestream Audio”.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS — Join us this evening at 6:30pm as we celebrate Christ’s birth through Scripture Reading and Song. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share for the reception that will follow!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE — Saturday, December 24 at 6:30pm

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP 2023 — Sign up sheet for Flowers for Sunday Worship in 2023 is now available in the narthex. Minimum price is \$72. For more information, contact Judy Dawson 214-384-9729.

SUPPORTING OUR MERCY MINISTRY — Your generous donations, specified “Mercy Fund,” allow our Deacons to bring financial relief to members and others in need.

YEAR-END GIVING — Just a reminder that all gifts and offerings need to be in the church office by the end of day or postmarked no later than Friday, December 30, to be included on your 2022 giving statement and deductible on your 2022 tax return. Unless you specify otherwise, we will credit your gift to the General Fund.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES (ADULTS, YOUTH, OR CHILDREN)— There will be no Sunday School Classes on Sunday, December 25, January 1, and January 8.

Fiscal Year 2023

Totals through December 4, 2022

(Our fiscal year starts July 1 and ends June 30)

General Fund Income	\$ 325,828
Designated Giving	\$ 78,615
Total Expenses	\$ 706,201
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ (301,758)

Give through PCA-Foundation

Go to: tnpc.org/giving

and follow
instructions



Give through PayPal

Go to:

paypal.me/tnpcgive

or

Send to:

give@tnpc.org



Town North Presbyterian Church
Rev. David Rogers, Senior Pastor
1776 N. Plano Road Richardson, Texas 75081