

*3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

*4 All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Carl Martin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Joyful God, You told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children. Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy? Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight? In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit, this often seems easier said than done. Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good. Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy. We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives. Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

SILENCE

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:
We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.**

***SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn #110 verse 3)**

*Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free. Love is
Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our
hearts are seeking. Love! Love! Love is the gift of
Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high.*

***PASSING OF THE JOKES**

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

JOY IN SCRIPTURE

LISTEN FOR JOY

Luke 2:10; Isaiah 9:2-3

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

*SING FOR JOY

PRACTICE JOY

Children’s Time

JOY IN COMMUNITY

LISTEN FOR JOY

Matthew 2:10; Psalm 148

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! Young men and women alike, old and young together! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

***SING FOR JOY**

PRACTICE JOY “Strictly No Elephants”

JOY IN PRAYER AND GIVING

LISTEN FOR JOY

Psalm 126:1-3; Isaiah 55:12-13

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

***SING FOR JOY**

PRACTICE JOY Creative Written Prayer

EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Robert Newman

***SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn Tune #144 v. 4)**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.*

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

SENDING

***HYMN #119** “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*1 Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”*

*2 Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.*

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

"In Dulci Jubilo"

Worship Notes

Our worship series is based on resources from A Sanctified Art, LLC, sanctifiedart.org.



The banner and quilt squares were created by Sharon Schuler. From a center point of this quilt square, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "The Earth laughs in flowers."

The bulletin cover features "The Good That Is Yours" by Lisle Gwynn Garrity. The worship liturgy was adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed.

Leading Today's Worship

Robert Newman, Program Director

Carl Martin, Commissioned Ruling Elder

Kyle Henderson, Director of Worship Arts

David Renaker, Organist

Coming Up

Thank You

A special thank you to Carl Martin for joining us in worship today. As a Commissioned Ruling Elder Carl helps lead worship around our presbytery and will be leading us in communion. Carl is currently the Director of Operations and Finance at the Presbyterian Home for Children and we are thankful for his work with that important ministry.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed December 31st and January 1st. We will return to the office the morning of January 2nd.

Epiphany Sunday, January 5th

Come join us next Sunday morning at 8:15 or 10:30 for worship. There will be Sunday School at 9:15. You will have the opportunity to receive a Star Word for the New Year.

Welcome to Southminster

Connect: If you are new to Southminster, we are glad you are here! Fill out a connect card and visit us online at southminsterpcusa.org to learn more about what's coming up.

Children: We welcome children of all ages in worship. Childcare is also available for infants through age three in our Nursery (Room 213), staffed by caring, experienced workers. Worship bags for children are available in the entryway.

Communion: All are welcome at the table as we celebrate the Lord's Supper each week. The bread and juice are alcohol-free and gluten-free. If you prefer to remain seated during communion, an elder will be glad to bring the elements to you.

Prayer concerns: Fill out a card to share prayer concerns with our pastoral staff. You can pick up a copy of prayer concerns at the entrances to the sanctuary each week.

Offering: Offerings may be placed in the offering boxes located at the sanctuary entrances, or you may give securely online by visiting southminsterpcusa.org/give.

This Week

SUNDAY / DECEMBER 29

10:30am / Worship Service

TUESDAY / DECEMBER 31

Church Office Closed

WEDNESDAY / JANUARY 1

Church Office Closed – Happy New Year

THURSDAY / JANUARY 2

11:00am / Bible Study

1:30pm / Visitation for Bob Wise

2:30pm / Memorial Service for Bob Wise

SATURDAY / JANUARY 4

9:00am / King's Home Thrift Store Pick up

SUNDAY / JANUARY 5

8:15 and 10:30am / Worship Service

9:15am / Sunday School