

THE CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

First Lord's Day in Christmas

**BALDWIN UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
201 KNOEDLER ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15236**

Dr. Robert E. Walkup, Pastor
Mrs. Grace Shearer, Organist & Choir Director

11.00 A.M.

December 31, 2017

WE GATHER IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(Please be seated in silence)

First Organ Prelude

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Announcements

Second Organ Prelude

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The Call to Worship

Antiphonal

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

People: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

Leader: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory, the mighty Word, sustaining the universe: Renew our lives by your presence.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time for the liberation of all creation: Release all into your promised freedom.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time, born in a stable at Bethlehem: May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

People: *Lord, have mercy.*

Leader: O Christ, truly God and truly human, born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations: Fulfill our desires in you.

People: *Lord have mercy.*

Leader: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary, child of wonder and splendor, mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace: May the whole world live in peace and justice.

People: *Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!*

THE BODY IS CALLED TOGETHER BY THE SPIRIT

*Hymn

#163

“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”

*Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you

L: Let us pray.

Leader: All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. *Amen.*

HIS LIGHT DISPELS OUR DARKNESS

***Call to Confession**

For our failures to trust that the Good News is really good, let us pray to the LORD.

***Prayer of Confession**

Unison

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. Even so, we confess that the shadows of our past disappointments and weaknesses still linger. Even though we have seen your star, we have too often closed our eyes to your glory. Even though we have knelt at your manger, we have resisted offering you the gift of our lives in your service. In your grace, lead us from the darkness of our fears and failures and open our eyes to the joy you have prepared for us in Christ Jesus as we together pray, saying: "Our Father.....Amen."

***Silent Prayer**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Thanks be to God!

The Gloria Patri

#546

The Peace

Offertory

“”

***Organ Response**

#552

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Doxology**

#544

***Hymn**

#159

“What Child is This”

HIS LIGHT GRANTS US VISION

Prayer of Illumination

Unison

Open wide the window of our spirits, O Lord, and fill us full of light; open wide the door of our hearts, that we may receive and entertain you with all our powers of adoration and love. Amen.

First Reading

Pew Bible pg. 692

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Second Reading

Pew Bible pg. 189

Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel Reading

Pew Bible pg. 59

Luke 2:22-40

Sermon

Dr. Walkup

“God’s ‘Yes’”

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles’ Creed

Hymnal pg. 12; using “Holy Spirit”

Prayer of the People

WE BEAR THE LIGHT OF CHRIST TO OTHERS

***Hymn**

#158

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

***Charge & Blessing**

***The Recessional**

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****Please Stand if Able***
