

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas*

December 28, 2025

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast

Liturgist: Pat Nash

## **PRELUDE:**

## **CHIMING THE HOUR**

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Psalm 118 says: This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.

**Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the Assurance of Pardon**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **My soul magnifies the Lord,**

People: and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All: **Let us worship God.**

**Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** God of power and love, You raised Jesus from death to life, resplendent in glory to rule over all creation. Free the world to rejoice in His peace, to glory in His justice, and to live in His love. Unite all human kind in Jesus Christ Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, Forever and ever. Amen.

**Our first hymn today is:**

**\*HYMN** No. 134 “Joy to the World” ANTIOCH

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, forgive us for sins against You and against those around us. Be known to us through word and deed, showing us Your way. Though we struggle to work for justice, we often fail. We send money to those in need around the world and fail to notice those who are struggling right outside our door. Forgive our lack of awareness and help us to see what You would have us do. (Say – “please pray silently, then after about 20 seconds, say) In Jesus’ name. Amen

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: **Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

People: Thanks be to God!

**You may be seated.**

**A TIME FOR YOUTH At this time would our youth please come forward.**

**Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION** Prepare our hearts, O God, to accept Your Word. Silence in us any voice but Your own, that, hearing, we may also obey Your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**PSALTER LESSON** Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 148 please read it responsively with me.

Leader: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!**

People: Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His host!

Leader: **Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you shining stars!**

People: Praise Him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

Leader: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.**

People: He established them forever and ever; He fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Leader: **Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,**

People: fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling His command!

Leader: **Mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars!.**

People: Wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Leader: **Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!**

People: Young men and women alike, old and young together!

Leader: **Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above earth and heaven.**

People: He has raised us a horn for His people, praise for all His faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to Him. Praise the Lord!

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: Thanks be to God!

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Our Old Testament Lesson comes from **Isaiah 63:7-9**, you may follow along in your Pew Bible on page 693 of the Old Testament.

**Isaiah 63:7-9**

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 act deceitfully," 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 pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

**For our Special Music I am going to sing, "Mary Did You Know"**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** "Mary Did You Know"

Solo – Pat Nash

**GOSPEL LESSON** Our Gospel Lesson comes from **Matthew 2:13-23**, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on page 2 of the New Testament

**Matthew 2:13-23**

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 magi, 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 magi. Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"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 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 Nazarene."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

## SERMON

Bill Gast

**Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:**

**\*HYMN** No. 140 “*Once in Royal David’s City*” IRBY

**Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.**

**\*AFFIRMATION** The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**You may be seated.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY** And now it is time for our **Prayer Concerns and Celebrations.** Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy 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 lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen

### OFFERTORY:

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 “*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*”

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving**

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**God of joy and exultation, You strengthen what is weak; You enrich the poor and give hope to those who live in fear. Look upon our needs this day. Make us grateful for the good**

news of salvation and keep us faithful in Your service until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who lives for ever and ever. Amen.

**Our last Hymn today is:**

**\*HYMN** No. 123 “*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*” CAROL

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 88 “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” VENI EMMANUEL  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*POSTLUDE:**

**\*Those who are able may stand.**

CCLI License # 2679691

PLEASE JOIN US FOR REFRESHMENTS  
IN THE OPPORTUNITY CORNER

### POINSETTIA'S

2	Elizabeth Price	In memory of Byron and Thomas Price
2	Joe Alexander	In remembrance of Jesus
2	Pat Nash	Christ Is Born! Halleluiah!
2	Sonia Wills	In memory of her husband Terrell and son, Conrad

# Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church [www.desotopresbyterian.church](http://www.desotopresbyterian.church)

.....

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**TUESDAY** – 10:30 AM Tuesday morning group - Bible Study

**WEDNESDAY** – 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service – Lessons and Carols

**THURSDAY – CHRISTMAS DAY**

**NEXT SUNDAY –**

10:30 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship with installation of new Ruling Elders

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING AND ANGEL TREE

As we normally do, we collected donations for our annual **Christmas Joy Offering** on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, however, we will still accept donations for this and the Angel Tree. So, you still have time to donate to this great cause. Please note on your checks or giving envelopes the phrase "Joy Gift." These gifts that we send to Grace Presbytery are shared equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

We will also still be accepting donations for the **Angel Tree** (located on the tables in the Opportunity Corner). These donations will go toward purchasing items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (samples of which are also on the tables). We normally like to use the funds for buying chickens and water projects, as those seem to be the most useful. Again, please note on your check or giving envelope the phrase "Angel Tree."

Thank you in advance for your generosity in fulfilling God's direction to provide for the hungry and for those needing assistance.

## POINSETTIA'S

You may take yours home no later than January 4<sup>th</sup>. Any plants left after January 4<sup>th</sup> will be thrown away.

## TAKE DOWN CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

We are going to leave the decorations up through Epiphany, The Tuesday Morning Group will start taking them down on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> and the congregation is asked to help finish the job on Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 am.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

Martha Brashear – her back is really painful

The church and nation of Ukraine

DeSoto Food Pantry

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Joan Christy – continued prayers

Mirielle said the election went well, but the current leader refuses to leave office, so  
please continue to pray for Cameroon

Jessica Zinn's step mother is having knee surgery

Nicholas' uncle had a stroke, and he seems to have a brain bleed

Andre Kanu was in a bad car accident, prayers for a speedy recovery

Travel mercies for all our friends and members traveling

## **CELEBRATIONS**

Chika thanks God for saving Andre's life