A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Isenheim Altarpiece was sculpted by Niclaus of Haguenau and painted by Matthias Grünewald in 1512–1516 and is on display at the Unterlinden Museum at Colmar, Alsace, in France. The enormous moveable altarpiece, essentially a box of statues covered by folding wings, served as the focal point for devotion in the Isenheim hospital built by the Brothers of St. Anthony. The outer wings of the Isenheim Altarpiece that you see above were opened for important festivals of the liturgical year, particularly those in honor of Mary.
A Service of Lessons and Carols

PRELUDE  Praeludium in G major  by Nicolaus Bruhns

WELCOME

LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLE of LOVE  The Lerew-Musgrave Family

 CALL to WORSHIP
bold in unison
Isaiah 11:1-3, 6

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.
Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined.

For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.

And the government will be upon his shoulder.
And his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

HYMN 113  Angels We Have Heard on High

BIDDING PRAYER
in unison
from The Cloister Walk  by Kathleen Norris

It has to do with us.
What we long for, and see, and do not see.

“And so the angels are here,” says St. Bernard.

Two crows interpose themselves
between me and the golden trees—ash, oak—
between the blood-red maple and a full moon
grown pale in a cloudless blue.

Their cries, on the chill wind, come as mystery,
much like the question Bernard tosses up to God:

“What are we,
that you make yourselves known to us?”

BLESSING
The Youth and the Congregation exchange the following blessing:

In body, mind, and spirit, may you be well this day.
And may you be strong for the work of healing in the world.
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

GLORIA

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Et in terra pax hominibus
bonae voluntatis.

LAUDAMUS TE

Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.
Gracias agimus tibi
Propter magnam gloriam tuam.
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said,

"Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"

But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her,

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel,

"How shall this be, since I have no husband?"

And the angel said to her,

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

"And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible."

And Mary said,

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

And the angel departed from her.

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**DOMINE DEUS**

*Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,*  
*Deus Pater omnipotens.*  
Lord God, Heavenly King,  
God the Father almighty.

**DOMINE FILI UNIGENITE**

*Domine fili unigenite,*  
*Jesu Christe.*  
The only begotten Son,  
Lord Jesus Christ.
LUKE 22: 39-43 He came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; and the disciples followed him. When he reached the place, he said to them,

“Pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed,

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.”

Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength.

DOMINE DEUS, AGNUS DEI

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis. Suscipe deprecationem nostrum.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father. Thou who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy on us. Receive our prayer.

LUKE 22:69 Jesus said:

“If I tell you, you will not believe; and if I question you, you will not answer. But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

LUKE 24:22-23 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

LUKE 24: 50-53 Later he led them out as far as Bethany and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

QUI SEDES AD DEXTERAM PATRIS


Thou who sits at the right hand of the Father, Have mercy on us. For Thou alone art holy. Thou alone are the Lord. Thou alone are the most high, Jesus Christ. With the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

EPILOGUE Linda Raney
HYMN 143  Angels from the Realms of Glory

SILENT MEDITATION  and PRAYER CANDLES
You are invited to come forward to light a prayer candle during the silence.

HYMN 88  O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 1)

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE  and the LORD’S PRAYER
We pray for people and places, silently or aloud, and respond together:
May they know the deep peace of Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY  What Child Is This  arr. by Peter Crisafulli
Rebecca Heindel, flute

RESPONSE HYMN 93  Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (verse 2)

PRAYER of DEDICATION  in unison  by Thom Shuman
In these moments, God who comes,
remind us
of those who are yearning to be lifted to their feet,
of those who hunger for hope,
of those who look for peace,
and may our gifts be used to serve them.
In Jesus’ name we pray.  Amen.

PASSING of the PEACE  and HYMN 752  Dona nobis pacem

HYMN 119  Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

BLESSING

POSTLUDE  Versets on the Magnificat  by Marcel Dupré

The service of worship concludes after the postlude.
The music may be enjoyed, and this time may be used for prayer.
You may remain seated or depart quietly.

SERVING TODAY
Officiant: The Rev. Dr. Harry Eberts III
Liturgist: Chris Haynes
Organist/Music Director: Linda Raney
Assistant Organist: David Solem
Assistant Choir Director: Travis Bregier
Associate Musician: David Beatty
Children’s Ministry: Jill McCormick

WORSHIP COORDINATORS
Worship & Music: Paul Vogel
Ushers: Rebecca Heindel
Liturgists: Karin Lerew
Liturgical Arts: Malissa Haslam, Barbara Ivy
Communion: Betty Jones
Outreach:
The Worship & Music Committee thanks the following for donating poinsettias for Christmas

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**Announcements**

**Alone on Christmas Day?** Or want to share it with church friends? Then you are invited to join Pastor Harry and Jenny at their home for a Christmas Open House, 12-5PM. Bring food or drink and your musical instrument to accompany carol-singing. At 3PM we will have a Celtic Christmas service. Email us at harry@fpcsantafe.org and we will furnish you with all the details. We hope you will join us!

**Join us for Celtic EvenSong** Wednesday at 5:30PM in the Sanctuary with Celtic songs and liturgy and communion, This week our theme is welcome, appropriate for the day after Christmas when we have welcomed the Christ child into the world.

**Interfaith Community Shelter.** Our next evenings to serve suppers at the Interfaith Community Shelter are **January 20, 22 and 23, 2019**. Please check the Shelter Book in the lobby to see where you can help. We will have both large and small aluminum pans available for your use after the first of the year. There is also the need for financial help to purchase some of the main dish ingredients. If you wish to help in this way, make the check out to First Presbyterian Church and put “MSJ Shelter Food” in the memo line. Thank you!

**The Prayer Shawl group** will not meet again until Tuesday, January 15, at 9:30AM.


Ever wonder what difference it makes why we worship the way we do? There are connections between the way the church conducts its worship and the way Christians are called to live daily in the world.

Jan 6—The Pattern of Gratitude Responding to Grace. Often we get grace and gratitude backwards, thinking we need to earn God’s gifts. The church’s liturgy is steady weekly practice in getting the pattern right: grace comes first, unearned and undeserved; a life of gratitude follows. We’ll look at how the order of our worship helps us live this core spiritual truth.

**Earth Care Tidbit:** California, Hawaii, and Washington are underscoring the critical role states must play in solving our climate crisis, especially at a time when politicians in D.C. are letting us down. Earthjustice.org

**Music and Art**

**TGIF 10th Anniversary Season, Friday at 5:30PM:** Jan Worden-Lackey, organ, plays Bach works for the Christmas season.

**Back Pew Gallery**—It’s not too late, our popular “Ornaments, Ornaments, Ornaments” show & sale is open all month. Purchase one or some of our unique ornaments to add to your Christmas decorations. Thank you for your generous support in the past. We raised $1,000 last year, which we gave to Santa Fe Dreamers Project and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico.

Call for Artists for the first exhibit of 2019 “Almost BLACK and WHITE”. All mediums accepted, and pieces need to be ready for display. All art is due Sunday, January 6, from 8:30 to 11:00AM.

**Prayers and Praise**

*Please notify the church office (office@fpcsantafe.org or 982.8544) to add or remove a name on our prayer list.*

We pray for: Cheri Schumann, Mary Schneider, Glennis & Seth Hinshaw, David Ingalls, Kati Schwartz, Susan Slotter, Dan Crane, Marcella Ortiz, Pat Luiken, Nat Dean, Sheldon Thompson, Jeff Baker, Brianna (Linda Trujillo’s grandniece), Jennifer Elliott, Jane & Jene Alexander, Paul Cast (Ethel Trimmer’s cousin), Bess Brooks.

**And our ministry partners:** Westminster Presbyterian, Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis, Church of the Holy Faith, and Sagua la Grande Church—our brothers and sisters in Cuba.

**Journaling as a Spiritual Practice** meets this month on Friday, December 28, at 11:30 in Pope Hall. The Acts II Spiritual Formation offers a spiritual journal writing class each last Friday of the month. This month’s class will focus on journaling our spiritual path during the holidays. The class is taught by Jeannie Bowman, Spiritual Director. **Newcomers to the class are welcome**, whether just interested in the subject or with seasoned journal-keeping experience. The class is based on Christina Baldwin’s book Life’s Companion. Having the book is not a requirement. Please bring a journal and writing instrument with you to class.