

The Order for the Worship of God
The Lord's Day
December 8, 2019
The 2nd Sunday in Advent
10:15 a.m.

Welcome to St. Petersburg Presbyterian Church

If you are with us for the first time, we are glad you are here! Please complete the guest card found in one of the chair pockets, and place it in the offering basket at the conclusion of the service. And, please join us for refreshments and conversation afterwards in the fellowship hall. More information about our church can be found on our website at www.stpetepca.org

Reflection

The great proclamation “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14) assures us that God has entered into human history through the incarnation of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The season of Advent, a season of waiting, is designed to cultivate our awareness of God’s actions—past, present, and future. In Advent we hear the prophecies of the Messiah’s coming as addressed to us—people who wait for His second coming. In Advent we heighten our anticipation for the ultimate fulfillment of all Old Testament promises, when sin and death will be swallowed up in the victory of Jesus’ death and resurrection. In this way Advent highlights for us the larger story of God’s redemptive plan in Christ.

— *The Worship Sourcebook*

WE ENTER GOD’S PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

The Welcome and Announcements — Pastor David Harding

The Passing of the Peace — Jesus Christ has purchased our peace with God through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave. Therefore, let us welcome one another with the peace of Christ.

The Call to Worship God — from Psalm 118; Isaiah 9; Psalm 95

Leader: This is the day the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Come and worship Jesus Christ, our Savior and King!

All: His Name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Leader: Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker and our King!

All: Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O Come All Ye Faithful

John F. Wade, 1743

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest”;
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace Thee, with love and awe;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

The Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

WE CONFESS TOGETHER WHAT WE BELIEVE

from Philippians 2

Leader: Christians, what do you believe about Jesus Christ?

All: We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God; Creator of all things visible and invisible; equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit in power and glory; worthy of all worship and obedience. Though he is God, he did not count equality with God something to hold on to, but made himself nothing, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and given him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Meekness and Majesty

Graham Kendrick, 1986

Meekness and majesty, manhood and Deity,
In perfect harmony, the Man who is God.
Lord of eternity, dwells in humanity;
Kneels in humility and washes our feet.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Father's pure radiance, perfect in innocence;
Yet learns obedience to death on a cross.
Suffering to give us life, conqu'ring through sacrifice;
And as they crucify prays, "Father, forgive."
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship, for this is your God.

Wisdom unsearchable, God, the invisible;
Love indescribable in frailty appears.
Lord of infinity, stooping so tenderly;
Lifts our humanity to the heights of His throne.
O what a mystery, meekness and majesty;
Bow down and worship, for this is your God.

WE REPENT OF OUR SINS AND RECEIVE GOD'S MERCY

The Call to Confession — Hebrews 10:19-22

Since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.

The Public Confession of Sin

Father, it is so easy to blame our problems and failures on our circumstances, other people, and even you. But, your Word tells us that our greatest problem is not external, but internal. Instead of trusting and treasuring and obeying you as we should, we are lured into sin by our own selfish desires. As a result, our hearts grow dull to your voice and to the needs of others. We have no excuse. We are guilty. So, we come to you in repentance and faith, seeking your mercy in Jesus Christ. Please forgive us on the basis of his righteous life and sin-atonement death. Change our hearts, so that we love and desire you more than anything or anyone. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

God's Promise of Forgiveness in Jesus Christ — 1 John 3 and 4

See how great a love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

How Deep The Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend, 1995

How deep the Father's love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son, to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss, the Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One, bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life, I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no power, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ; His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom.

Parents are welcome to take their children, infants up to age 4, to the nursery for the remainder of the service.

WE HEAR GOD SPEAK IN HIS WORD

**The Sermon
“The Crucified King”
Mark 15:16-41**

(pg. 852-853 in the pew Bible)

¹⁶And the soldiers led him away inside the palace (that is, the governor's headquarters), and they called together the whole battalion. ¹⁷And they clothed him in a purple cloak, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on him. ¹⁸And they began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹And they were striking his head with a reed and spitting on him and kneeling down in homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak and put his own clothes on him. And they led him out to crucify him.

²¹And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. ²²And they brought him to the place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull). ²³And they offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴And they crucified him and divided his garments among them, casting lots for them, to decide what each should take. ²⁵And it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶And the inscription of the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷And with him they crucified two robbers, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself, and come down from the cross!” ³¹So also the chief priests with the scribes mocked him to one another, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross that we may see and believe.” Those who were crucified with him also reviled him.

³³And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” ³⁵And some of the bystanders hearing it said, “Behold, he is calling Elijah.” ³⁶And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, “Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.” ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. ³⁸And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. ³⁹And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, “Truly this man was the Son of God!”

⁴⁰There were also women looking on from a distance, among whom were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.

Sermon Notes

I. Derision — Jesus takes our shame (16-32)

II. Darkness — Jesus takes our judgment (33-37)

III. Curtain — Jesus is our access to God (38)

IV. Confession — Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God (39)

Questions for personal reflection and family/Community Group discussion:

- What was particularly meaningful to you about corporate worship? What did you learn about God that will make a difference in your life this week?
- What is ironic about the soldiers mocking of Jesus?
- What does the darkness in the passage mean? Why is this significant?
- What did Jesus mean when he cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” What does his being forsaken by God mean for us?
- In the song, *In Christ Alone*, it says, “Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.” Why did God’s wrath need to be satisfied? How would you explain your answer to someone who said, “Why can’t God just love and forgive everyone without Jesus dying?”
- Why is it significant that the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom? What difference does this make in your life? Read Heb. 10:19-22 for help.
- Have you confessed Jesus Christ as the Son of God, your Savior and King? If so, what difference is He making in your life? Are you confessing Christ before others?

The Prayers of God's People

WE FEAST ON JESUS CHRIST BY FAITH IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Session of SPPC welcomes to the Lord's Table all who are repenting of their sins, professing faith in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation, and are expressing that faith as baptized members in good standing of a congregation where the Biblical gospel is loved and proclaimed. Come with joy as you actively trust in Jesus Christ and willingly forsake sin, having sought reconciliation in all relationships.

The Words of Institution

A Communion Affirmation

from *The Valley of Vision*

Leader: God of all good, you have prepared for us a feast; and though we are unworthy to sit down as guests, we wholly rest on the merits of Jesus and hide ourselves in his righteousness.

All: In this supper we remember the agony of the cross and the cost of redemption. We rejoice in your eternal love, boundless grace, and infinite compassion.

Leader: We proclaim your death, O Lord, and profess your resurrection, until you come again.

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Giving and Receiving of the Bread and Cup

Please wait until all have been served, so we may eat and drink together.
The cup trays contain wine on the inner rings and grape juice on the outer ring.

Rock of Ages

Augustus Toplady, James Ward

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, from Thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.

Not the labors of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone; Thou must save and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked come to Thee for dress; helpless look to Thee for grace;
Foul, I to the Fountain fly: wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown, see Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in Thee.

WE RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL WITH SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

Worshiping God through Our Financial Giving — God has lavished us with the riches of his grace in Jesus Christ. Therefore, we give our money generously, joyfully and sacrificially for the spread of the gospel in our city and around the world.

The Power of the Cross

Keith and Kristyn Getty; Stuart Townend

Oh, to see the dawn of the darkest day: Christ on the road to Calvary.
Tried by sinful men, torn and beaten, then nailed to a cross of wood.

(Chorus)

This, the pow'r of the cross: Christ became sin for us;
Took the blame, bore the wrath — we stand forgiven at the cross.

Oh, to see the pain written on Your face, bearing the awesome weight of sin.
Ev'ry bitter thought, ev'ry evil deed crowning Your bloodstained brow. (Chorus)

Now the daylight flees; now the ground beneath quakes as its Maker bows His head.
Curtain torn in two, dead are raised to life; "Finished!" the vict'ry cry. (Chorus)

Oh, to see my name written in the wounds, for through Your suffering I am free.
Death is crushed to death; life is mine to live, won through Your selfless love.

This, the pow'r of the cross: Son of God — slain for us.
What a love! What a cost! We stand forgiven at the cross.

WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD TO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Benediction — 2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Dismissal — Having tasted and seen the goodness and grace of God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, let us go from here to live as his joyful, obedient children.

All: Thanks be to God!

Please remain for refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Missionary of the Month

Please pray for our missionaries for the month of December, Bill and Pam Schweitzer. They are serving Gateshead Presbyterian Church in Gateshead, England with Mission to the World (MTW). Bill and Pam have 7 children: Mark, Bethany, Mary, Anna, James, Rebecca and Ruth.

The James Club

The James Club is a Christ-centered outreach ministry for those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. It meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 in the fellowship hall, with a prayer meeting from 6:45-7:15 in the high school room. For more information, contact Kyle Krueger at kkruieger@bloomberg.net.

Progressive Christmas Dinner, December 15

Mark your calendars for Sunday evening, December 15, for our annual Progressive Christmas dinner. We will be having "Dinners for 8" at various homes, and then meet together for dessert and Christmas carols at Terry and Lynn Tanner's. If you're interested in hosting one of the dinner groups, please contact Lynn Harding at lynnharding@tampabay.rr.com or sign up in the fellowship hall.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve service will be on Tuesday, December 24, at 5:30 p.m. Invite a friend to share with them the meaning and hope of Christmas.

Christmas Eve Fellowship at the Harding's

Please join us after the Christmas Eve service for Sante Fe Soup at the Harding's, 1541 Eden Isle Blvd. NE. Please contact Lynn Harding at lynnharding@tampabay.rr.com if you plan to attend.

One-Year Community Bible Reading Calendar

Monday, Dec 9	Amos 4-6	Revelation 7
Tuesday, Dec 10	Amos 7-9	Revelation 8
Wednesday, Dec 11	Obadiah 1; Jonah 1-2	Revelation 9
Thursday, Dec 12	Jonah 3-4; Micah 1	Revelation 10
Friday, Dec 13	Micah 2-4	Revelation 11
Saturday, Dec 14	Psalms 144-146	

THIS WEEK AT SPPC

Sunday (December 8)

- 8:30 a.m.** Congregational Prayer (meet in adult classroom off fellowship hall)
9:00 a.m. Classes for children, youth and adults.
Children and youth classes located off north hallway
Adult class meets in room next to fellowship hall.
- 10:15 a.m.** Corporate Worship — sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Refreshments and conversation in the fellowship hall
12:00 p.m. Session and Diaconate meetings

Monday (Office closed)

Tuesday

- 6:45 p.m.** James Club prayer meeting
7:30 p.m. James Club — a gospel-centered ministry for those struggling with alcohol and drug addictions. Meets in the fellowship hall.

Wednesday

- 6:30 p.m.** Curtiss Community Group — Seminole/Largo (727) 644-3839
7:00 p.m. Tanner Community Group — Northeast St. Pete (727) 482-4855
Burkham Community Group — North St. Pete/Gandy (727) 798-4506

Thursday

- 7:00 p.m.** Massey/Jenkins Community Group — Northwest St. Pete (727) 452-8715

Friday

- 7:00 a.m.** Men's Bible Study — fellowship hall

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Elders (The Session)	Phil Boddie	727-392-2913
	Steve Curtiss	727-644-3839
	David Harding	727-434-9048
	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
	Chad Martin	727-744-8704
Deacons (The Diaconate)	Bob Berry	407-920-7412
	Bob Burkham	727-579-4220
	Mike Eldridge	727-515-9560
	Dave Shadle	610-217-8718
Administrative Assistant	Michele Hurm	727-329-6346
Children and Youth	Derik Jenkins	727-452-8715
Christian Education	Steve Curtiss	727-644-3839
Community Groups	David Massey	727-644-8679
Facilities	Bob Burkham	727-579-4220
Homeless Outreach	Kyle Krueger	727-364-7355
Hospitality	Barbara Burkham	727-579-4220
Men's Ministry	David Harding	727-434-9048
Mercy Ministry	Dave Shadle	610-217-8718
Missions	Bob Berry	407-920-7412
Security	Mike Eldridge	727-515-9560
Ushers/Greeters	Paul Stonecipher	727-515-3551
Women's Ministry	Mary Vellenga	727-482-6435

SUPPORTED MISSIONARIES & AGENCIES

Esaie and Natacha Etienne	Mission to the World	Port-au-Prince, Haiti
Susan Newkirk	Mission to the World	Cape Town, S. Africa
David and Erin Pervis	Mission to the World	Athens, Greece
Bill and Pam Schweitzer	Mission to the World	Gateshead, England
Marcelo and Claudia Carvalho	WEC Brazil	Amazon, Brazil
Ravi and Renuka Chary	Presbyterian Church India (PCI)	Telangana, India
Andrew and Meghan Newman	Reformed University Fellowship	USF, Tampa
New Hearts Outreach		Tampa
New Life Solutions Pregnancy Center		St. Petersburg