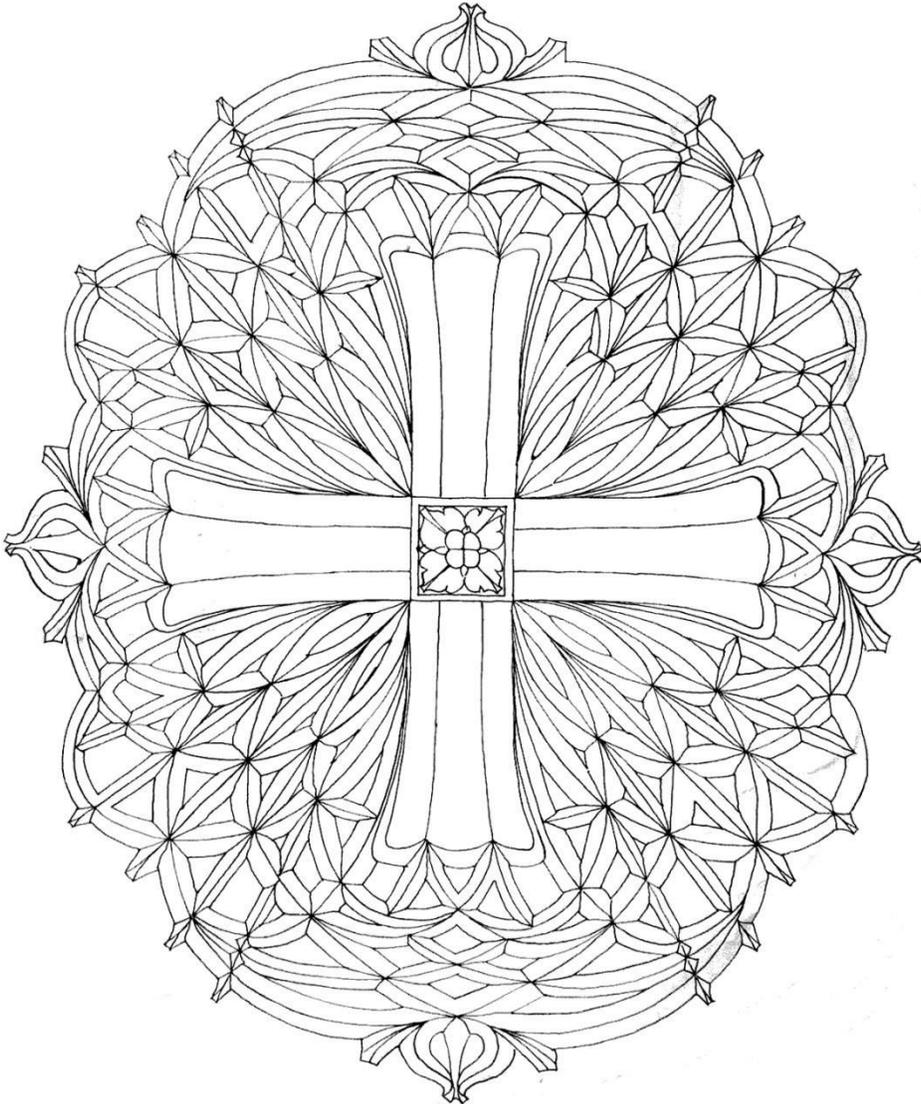


First Presbyterian Church

January 3, 2021

Second Sunday of Christmas



*Serving Christ from the heart of the city to the ends
of the earth with love, faith and action.*

We Gather in God's Presence

Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

Piano Prelude *"Twas In The Moon of Wintertime" (Huron Carol)* arr. Stephen Fiess

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God;
for the Lord is gracious and merciful, and is worthy of our praise!

The Lord gathers the outcasts and heals the brokenhearted.

Salvation has come to us, for God's redeeming love has come near. Let us worship God!

Let us worship God together!

Hymn ["Raise a Song of Gladness"](#) No. 155

Prayer of Confession

Judy Pidcock

Eternal God, we can grasp the concept of you as a creator, for we can imagine you as a God of power and purpose. And we can grasp the concept of you as a sustainer, knowing that you might want to tend to the world you called into being. But your decision to come among us, to empty yourself for us, to submit yourself to the degradation and death through which your love was revealed, this is what continues to confound us. We can imagine you as a God high above us, but "God with us" stretches us to imagine something new. Overcome the limits of what makes sense to us, and give us the faith we need to receive this great good news, revealed through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whom and through whom we offer our particular confessions, in silence...

Kyrie | Lord, have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response to Pardon

Friends in Christ, in response to this gift of God's grace, how then shall we live?

**With gratitude, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to love
God with heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves.**

This is the way of Jesus, in whom we find life!

We Celebrate our Life Together

Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

Laurie Taylor Weicher

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and 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.

We Listen to God's Word

A Moment for Children

Beth Thaxton

Scripture Readings

Psalm 8; Colossians 1:15-20

Sermon

"The Wonder of Our Existence"

Ed McLeod

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn

["Of the Father's Love Begotten"](#)

No. 108

Affirmation of Faith | The Apostles' Creed

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 at 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.

An Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

"The Work of Christmas"
Andy Eaton, Baritone

Dan Forrest

Prayer of Dedication

We Bear God's Word into the World

Hymn

["Once in Royal David's City"](#)

No. 140

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

**Go with us Lord, and guide the way through this and every coming day,
that in Your Spirit, strong and true, our lives may be our gift to you.**

Postlude

"Rejoice Greatly" from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

The Chancel flowers are dedicated to the glory of God and are given
in loving memory of Dick and Betsy Shiels by Bob and Bill Shiels.

Sacrament of Baptism

Emory Light Boon