

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 1, 2017

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day

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*Please sign and pass the Friendship Book (“pew pad”) where you can also record any prayer requests. Our prayer is that you will experience the presence of the Living God as we worship together. We invite you to focus your heart and mind in worship.*

*Please silence your cell phones.*

*\* indicates please stand as you are able.*

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**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Dave Colvin**

**PRELUDE**

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

**Piano**

*arr. Cindy Berry*

**Call to Worship**

**Dave Colvin**

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

**Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you; save your servant who trusts in you.**

You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long.

**Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor Meekhof**

**\*SONGS OF WORSHIP:**

**“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”**

*(Hymn #170)*

**(VERSE 1)**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven’s all gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

**(VERSE 2)**

Still through the cloven skies they come,  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

**(VERSE 3)**

For lo, the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years,  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.  
to the place where he has gone.

**“ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY”**

*(Hymn #161)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

**(VERSE 2)**

He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor and meek and lowly  
lived on earth, our Savior holy.

**(VERSE 3)**

Jesus is our childhood's pattern,  
day by day like us he grew,

he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew:  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

**(VERSE 4)**

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child, so dear and gentle,  
is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he has gone.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**TIME OF PRAYER**

**Alex Colvin**

**Prayer of Confession**

O God, we need Christ to renew our commitment.

**We confess that our lack of faith has made us fearful.**

May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

**We acknowledge that we have foolishly let our desires lead us astray.**

May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

**We have turned our faith into a lifeless ritual.**

May your manger call us again to expressions of love and devotion.

**We have carefully kept our gifts  
and have not freely given our goods and our hearts  
to you.**

May the Magi show us the spirit of giving.

**Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts  
and bring renewal in our lives. Amen.**

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*[Silent Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Almighty God who inhabits eternity

but dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit:

before you and our Lord Jesus Christ  
we confess our sins.

We have ignored the presence of your Spirit.

We have failed to look for the return  
of our Savior and Judge.

We have been blind to your coming  
in the suffering of the hungry, the exiled,  
the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned.

In your great goodness  
put away our offenses

and cleanse us from our sin, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

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**SONG OF WORSHIP:**

*please remain seated*

**“PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE KING OF HEAVEN”**

*(Hymn #26)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven,  
to his feet your tribute bring;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
evermore his praises sing.

Alleluia! Alleluia!!

Praise the everlasting King!

**(VERSE 2)**

Praise Him for his grace and favor  
to all people in distress.

Praise him, still the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.

Alleluia! Alleluia!!

Glorious in his faithfulness!

**(VERSE 3)**

Father-like, he tends and spares us;  
all our hopes and fears he knows.

In his hands he gently bears us,  
rescues us from all our foes.

Alleluia! Alleluia!!  
Widely as his mercy flows!

**(VERSE 4)**

Angels, help us to adore him,  
you behold him face to face.  
Sun and moon bow down before him;  
all who dwell in time and space.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!!  
Praise with us the God of grace!

**OFFERING OF OURSELVES & OUR GIFTS**

**Karen Colvin**

**Invitation to the Offering**

How does God's love abide in anyone  
who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister  
in need and yet refuses to help?

Dear children, let us love,  
not in word or speech,  
but also in truth and action.

—from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

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**\*Doxology**

**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.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God,  
you have shown your great love for your children  
by using commonplace things for your purpose—  
water to mark your children,  
bread and wine to feed and nourish us ordinary people to  
be disciples,  
a child in a manger to announce your grace.  
Take these commonplace things,  
these gifts of paper and metal and the lives that stand  
behind them.  
Bless and use them to proclaim your gracious love,

for we offer them in the name of Jesus, the Lamb of God.  
**Amen.**

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*Please be seated. The ushers will pass the offering plates.  
The children are excused at this time to attend Junior Chapel.*

**Offertory**

**Piano**

**“The Coventry Carol with Away in a Manger”**

*arr. Cindy Berry*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Deuteronomy 6:1–8** (NIV)

**Tommy Colvin**

<sup>1</sup> These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, <sup>2</sup> so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. <sup>3</sup> Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

<sup>5</sup> Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

**Mark 4:1–10** (NIV)

**Bill Colvin**

<sup>1</sup> “Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water’s edge. <sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places,

where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

<sup>10</sup> When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

**Mark 9:2–8** (NIV)

**Tommy Colvin**

<sup>2</sup> After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. <sup>3</sup> His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

<sup>7</sup> Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

<sup>8</sup> Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

**MESSAGE**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**“Listen!”**

Sermon Texts: “So faith comes from **what is heard**, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.” Romans 10:17

“Be **quick to listen**, and slow to speak.” James 1:19.

“**Listen to Him!**” Mark 9:7

**\*SONG OF WORSHIP:**

**“OPEN MY EYES, THAT I MAY SEE”**

*(Hymn #557)*

**(VERSE 1)**

Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**(VERSE 2)**

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear,  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**(VERSE 3)**

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart, and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see;  
open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**SHARING AROUND CHRIST’S TABLE—COMMUNION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

*Christ becomes a part of our flesh through Holy Communion.*

*The Lord's Supper is not an end in itself. It always points beyond itself to celebrate God's grace and covenant faithfulness. This does not mean the physical aspects of the celebration are incidental or unimportant. The Lord's Supper should be a celebration fitting to the abundant grace of God offered in Christ.*

**Invitation to the Lord's Supper  
Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup  
Sharing the Body and Blood of Christ**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

*It is the custom at Knox, in celebration of Holy Communion, to hold hands and form a circle around the sanctuary to sing our closing song...*

**"BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS"**

*(Hymn #708)*

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

**BENEDICTION**

**Rev. Don Meekhof**

**POSTLUDE**

**Piano**

**"O, How Joyfully with Joy to the World"**

*arr. Cindy Berry*

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**In the pulpit today: Don Meekhof** is our "*Temporary Stated Supply*" pastor. Those words in quotes are the official title given by Presbytery because with Shared Ministry there is no full-time pastor. However, Don most definitely has a full-time love for shepherding the flock of Christ and we are blessed to have him with us!