



THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT
December 13, AD 2020 | 11 am

Overture

Call to Worship

From Psalm 132

Narrators: Jennifer Ellis and Jamy Comeaux

Let us go to the LORD’S dwelling place, let us worship at his footstool, saying, “Arise, LORD, and come to your resting place, you and the ark of your might. May your priests be clothed with your righteousness; may your faithful people sing for joy.”

For the LORD has chosen Zion, he has desired it for his dwelling, saying, “This is my resting place forever and ever; here I will sit enthroned, for I have desired it. I will bless her with abundant provisions; her poor I will satisfy with food. I will clothe her priests with salvation, and her faithful people will ever sing for joy.

Here I will make a horn grow for David and set up a lamp for my anointed one. I will clothe his enemies with shame, but his head will be adorned with a radiant crown.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Olivia, Vince, Amelia and Charles Lewis Gilcrease

“Hail the Blest Morn”

Based upon the folk hymn “Star in the East”

Text by Reginald Heber and Michael W. Smith

Excerpts from “On the Morning of Christ’s Nativity”

By John Milton

Prayer of St. Bernard of Clairvaux

That glorious Form, that Light unsufferable, and that far-beaming blaze of Majesty,
Wherewith he went at Heav’n’s high council-table, to sit the midst of Trinal Unity,
He laid aside, and here with us to be, forsook the courts of everlasting day,
And chose with us a darksome house of mortal clay.

Day that sunset shall not close, Star that light on all bestows, ever cloudless.
Star that shining grows not dim, nor his mother, bearing him, less a maiden.
The great tree of Lebanon, Hyssop’s lowliness puts on in our valley;
And the Word of God Most High, self-imprisoned doth lie in our body.

“You’re Here”

By Ben Glover and Francesca Battistelli
Von Iyengar and Angelle High, soloists

The Benedictus (Luke 1) and Excerpt from “Christmas Poem”

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.

Because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Oh Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,
Wrapt in night’s mantle, stole into a manger;
Since my dark soul and brutish is Thy right,
To man of all beasts be not Thou a stranger.

~By George Herbert

“Light of the World (Sing Hallelujah)”

By Andrew Bergthold and Ed, Franni, Martin and Scott Cash
Dale Weiner and Laurie Adams, worship leaders

Announcements and Greeting

*Children Kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church.
Please place your offering in the baskets as you exit worship today.*

Scripture

John 1: 18

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.

Titus 2: 11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

No one has ever seen God;
**But the only God, who is at the Father’s side,
He has made him known (John 1: 18).**

Meditation

“Swaddling Clothes About Him”
Gerrit Dawson

***“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

Excerpts from Psalm 72

Endow the king with your justice, O God, the royal son with your righteousness. May he judge your people in righteousness, your afflicted ones with justice. May the mountains bring prosperity to the people, the hills the fruit of righteousness.

May he defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; may he crush the oppressor. May he endure as long as the sun, as long as the moon, through all generations.

May he be like rain falling on a mown field, like showers watering the earth.

May he rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. May the desert tribes bow before him and his enemies lick the dust.

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts.

May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him.

Excerpts from “The Nativity of Christ”

By Robert Southwell and “Annunciation” by John Donne

Behold . . . the bird that built the nest is hatched therein,
The old of years an hour hath not outrun,
Eternal life to live doth now begin,
The Word is dumb, the mirth of heaven doth weep,
Might feeble is, and force doth faintly creep.
O dying souls, behold your living spring;
O dazzled eyes, behold your sun of grace;
Dull ears, attend what word this Word doth bring;
Up, heavy hearts, with joy your joy embrace.

. . . Thou Wast in His mind, who is thy Son and Brother;
Whom thou conceivst, conceived; yea thou art now
Thy Maker’s maker, and thy Father’s mother;
Thou hast light in dark, and shutst in little room,
Immensity cloistered in thy dear womb.

Introduction of Video Project

“O Magnum Mysterium”

By Martin Lauridsen

O magnum mysterium,
et admirabile sacramentum
ut Animalia viderent Dominum
natum, jacentum in praesepio!
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera
Meruerunt portare
Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

*O great mystery,
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord,
Lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
was worthy to bear the
Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congregational Meeting. The session calls for a congregational meeting to be held during 9 and 11 am worship Sunday, December 20. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Barry Phillips, Jason Lewis and Pat Canfield as the search committee which intends to call Darin Travis as Associate Pastor for Discipleship, Men's Ministry and Young Adults.

Five Christmas Eve Services! We're eager to celebrate our Savior's birth with you at one of our five (!) Christmas Eve services. Join us at 11 am, 4 pm or 6 pm. In order to provide as much safe seating as possible, we'll offer a service at 11 am in the Sanctuary and two services at 4 pm and two at 6 pm; one in the Sanctuary and one in the Gym. All services will include live music, a live message from Gerrit, candlelight, communion and decorations. However, to manage seating, each service must be a ticketed event. Beginning today at 4 pm online reservations go live for each service. If you do not use the internet, please contact the church office. Tickets reserved may then be picked up at the church.

We Need Gifts for Kids! The children's, youth and missions ministries of First Presbyterian Church are teaming up to bring joy to the children in southwest Louisiana. We deeply appreciate your help in blessing others who have been devastated. Gift ideas and details are online at fpchr.org.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due Tomorrow. Tomorrow is the last day to purchase a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. Contact Sherry in the church office (387.0617 or sherry@fpchr.org). Poinsettias are used to decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary. \$35 each.

Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads. Items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center: soap, antiperspirant, toothpaste/toothbrush, shampoo, lotion, body wash, socks or baby powder. Cash donations also accepted.

One Service December 27, 10.30 am. Please join us for combined worship on December 27.

Daily Advent Readings. A suggested list of Advent readings is available in print, online or in the church app.

Twice a Week: Hurricane Relief Day Trips. Whitney Alexander leads a group of relief workers each Wednesday and Saturday. Everyone is welcome. Meet him in the church parking lot at 6.30 am. Bring work gloves! Also, relief items continue to be collected in the gym. Immediately needed items: contractor bags, buckets and cleaning supplies (Fabuloso and bleach).

Why Do We Mask? At First, we insist on masks at our gatherings. Is it inconvenient? Yes! Is their effectiveness debatable? Yes! But . . . 1) It's the law, 2) We respect the medical minds in our own congregation and 3) *We love one another.* We have members who are at risk, fellow worshipers who, for safety concerns, would not come if we wore no masks. Scripture (1 Cor. 8) clearly calls on those who have more freedom to inconvenience themselves for those who have less. So, please, wear a mask inside and do it for love's sake.

Next week's Scripture:
Ezekiel 37: 1-6

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.

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Thank you for your patience as our perimeter construction will require that some entrances may be closed on certain days over the next few weeks.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD
763 North Boulevard | Baton Rouge, LA 70802
225.387.0617 | fpchr.org

Scripture Readings from Genesis 1, Isaiah 60 and 2 Corinthians 4

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

In the new beginning . . . the sun shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun shall no more go down, nor your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of mourning shall be ended.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

“The Singer” with “Hail the Blest Morn”

Reprise by David Phelps

Words of Appreciation

“God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”

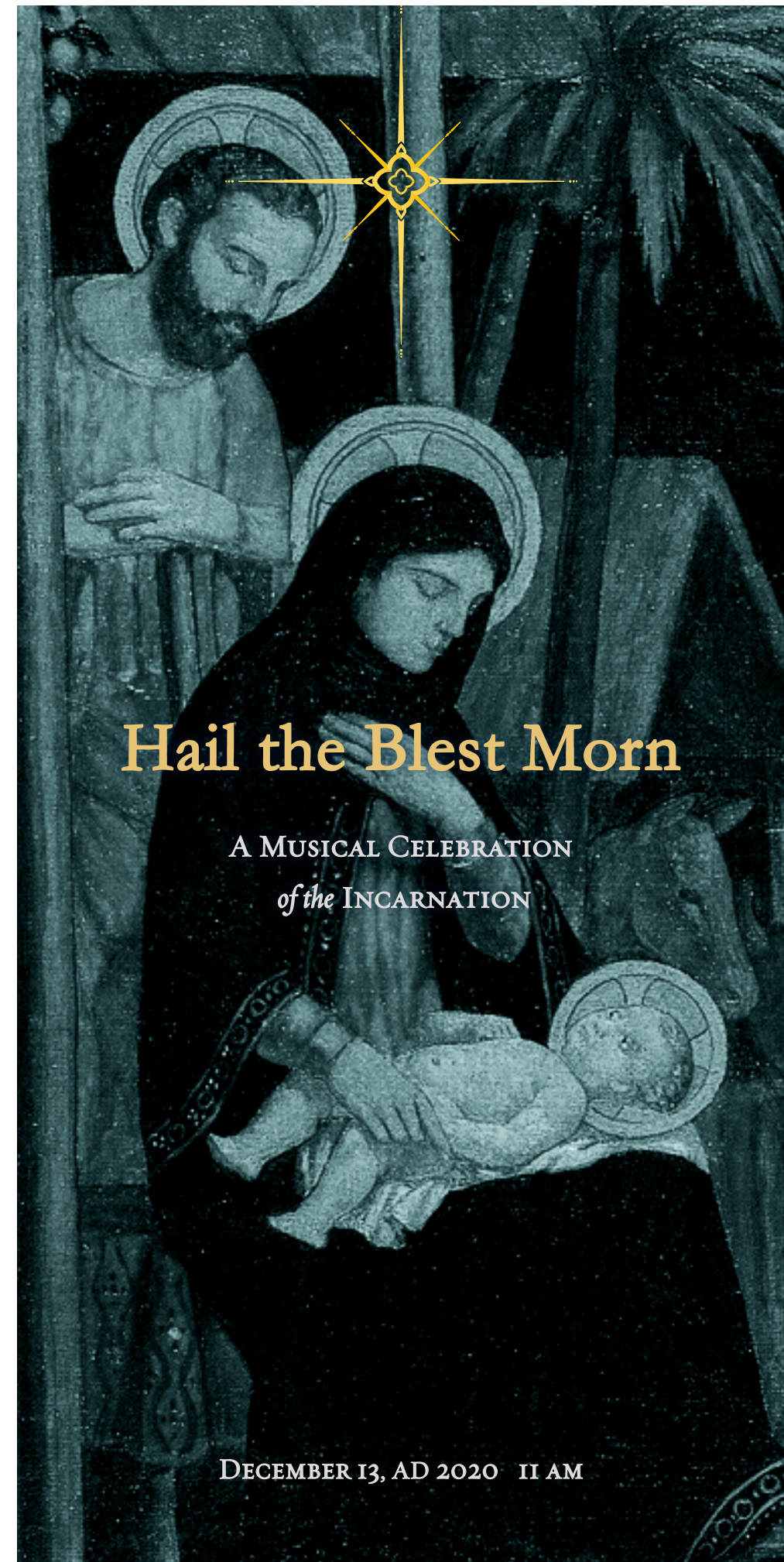
*Benediction



“Hail the Blest Morn”

Christopher Phillips, arranger and conductor
First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir and Orchestra

ORCHESTRA:	Oboe Shea Tully	BAND:	Keys Bobby Struppeck
Violin Rachel Kollmeyer Randal Manning	French Horn Lauren Braud	Electric Guitar Jim Miley Charles Meyer	Piano Harold Mims
Cello Anna Herrera	Percussion Jordan Tupper	Acoustic Guitar Bill McDonald	
Flute Rachel Ciraldo	Organ and Piano Steve Gustafson	Bass Jordan Tupper	



Hail the Blest Morn

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION
of the INCARNATION

DECEMBER 13, AD 2020 II AM