

*Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love!
Praise to you, God on high!*

December 28, 2014
The First Sunday of Christmas

Celebration of Worship

* *If you are able, please stand.*

Prelude

Fugue on *Ave maris stella*

Nicolas de Grigny (1672-1703)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

*Keep life pure, make the journey safe, so that, seeing Jesus, we may always rejoice together.
Let there be praise to God the Father, Glory to Christ in the highest, to the Holy Spirit,
one honor to all three. Amen.*

* **Call to Worship** (*responsively*) +

Rev. Dr. David Lawrence

Leader: Praise the One who spoke and made everything!

People: Let the rivers ripple with joy! Let the mountains stomp their feet!

Leader: Praise the One who adopts all of us as children!

**People: Let old folks tell familiar stories;
let little children swim with dolphins!**

Leader: Praise God!

People: May we sing of God's glory; may we shout our joy to the heavens!

* **Hymn 110**

Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

Confession and Pardon

Amy Lawrence Bozza

Call to Confession +

It is easy to become slaves to our passions. It is harder to live as God's children. Let us confess the easy choices we have made, so God can strengthen us to be faithful sisters and brothers of Christ.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) +

Abba God, we know that given the chance, we rarely praise others. We are guided more by meanness than by your gentleness. And we are seldom wise enough to listen to your voice, preferring instead the sweet, sweet songs of sin. Forgive us, Heart of Heaven. Touch those inner places of hope and joy that they might become the gifts we can offer to those around us, as we seek to follow Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Kyrie (Hymn 437)

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy

Wayfaring Stranger

Silent Prayer

Assurance of Pardon (*responsively*) +

Leader: Hear the good news. The time is now; the place is here. God has redeemed us from sin; God has claimed us as the children of Hope.

People: Praise God, all people, for life is given to us anew;
eternity is our home. Thanks be to God.

* Response (from Hymn 134, verses 3 & 4)

No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*) ++

By the breath of your Spirit, inspire us, that in the hearing of your Word, we may be filled with new understanding and fresh desire to please you in all we do, for the sake of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Scripture Reading (*responsively*) Galatians 4:4-7 Contemporary English Version

Leader: But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God's children.

People: Now that we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.

Leader: And his Spirit tells us that God is our Father.

People: You are no longer slaves. You are God's children, and you will be given what he has promised.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth!

People: Amen.

***Hymn** Who Would Think That What Was Needed *Scarlet Ribbons*
(*see insert on next page*)

Scripture Reading (*responsively*) Luke 2:22-35, 39-40 NRSV

Leader: When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

People: Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

Leader: It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Continued...

People: And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Leader: When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

People: The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

People: Thanks be to God.

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| * Hymn 148 | Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple | <i>Evening Hymn</i> |
| Sermon | "What We Have Is Hardly More" | Dr. Lawrence |
| * Hymn 545 | Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace | <i>Land of Rest</i> |

Greeting/Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God

(Please sign and pass the friendship pad, found in the pew, to the person next to you. Offering envelopes and prayer request cards are located in the pew pockets for your convenience. Cards will be collected with the offering.)

Offertory

Jesus bliebet meine Freude

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

*Jesus all my joy remaineth, my heart's solace and my stay
All my wounds to heal he deigneth, on Him all my need I lay
He's my heart's fond hope and treasure, my soul's rapture and dearest pleasure
He is with me day and night, ever in my heart and sight.*

*** Doxology (unison)**

Regent Square

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*** Prayer of Dedication** (unison)

Giver of all good gifts, we thank you for your blessings in our lives—big and small, known and unknown. As you have come to be with us in Jesus, may the gifts that we give today witness to your love. Move through our lives and work through our bodies, that we may give you glory and show forth the wonder of your love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

*** Hymn 132**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

*** Benediction**

Postlude

Tous les bourgeois de Chartres

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

Ryan Kennedy, organ

Participating in the service today are The Reverend Dr. David C. Lawrence, Amy Lawrence Bozza, and Ryan Kennedy, Organ Scholar.

The acolytes are Emma Craig and Evan MacGregor.

+ From *Where the Broken Gather: Lectionary Liturgies for RCL Year B* by Thom M. Shuman.
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GREETING: Jack and Lisa Fraebel, Nicky Fraebel, and Shirley and Dave Mutchler.

USHERS: Vern Verhoef, head usher, Brian and France Delle Donne, Frank Gaden, Barbara Parke, Richard Parke, Gayle Pearson.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR today is hosted by Linda and Nial McCabe.

THE POINSETTIAS decorating the sanctuary today are funded by gifts from members and friends of the Presbyterian Church.

Additional Christmas memorials received:

My good friend, Helen Kingsbury Deborah Fallon

OPEN MEETINGS THIS WEEK: *For a full schedule of meetings, go to our website.*

Sunday, December 28 **Office closed**
10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
 (No 7:45 a.m. service this week)

Monday, December 29
No opening meetings today
Nursery School closed

Tuesday, December 30
8:00 a.m. Small Group (D. Lisco)
Nursery School closed

Wednesday, December 31
New Year's Eve
First Night Celebration
No opening meetings today
Nursery School closed

Thursday, January 1, 2015
No opening meetings today
Office and Nursery School closed

Friday, January 2
No opening meetings today
Nursery School closed

Saturday, January 3 ***Office closed***
9:00 a.m. Tai Chi
10:00 a.m. Christian Yoga

Sunday, January 4 ***Office closed***
7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion
8:45 a.m. Sunday School (Children)
8:45 a.m. One Adult Sunday School
 joins Sunday Morning Seminar
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion

More information on our Church, our programs and schedules
is available on our website www.pcmorristown.org

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We are a historic church, part of a historic denomination, and we celebrate this history while exploring ways to bring passion and freshness to our worship and congregational life. Join us as we seek to discover Fresh Traditional ways to **proclaim, gather, and nurture**, all toward continuing Jesus Christ's earthly ministry of building God's Kingdom.

Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the narthex at the back of the church.

Visitor's Information brochures are in the stands at the entrances
to assist you in finding your way around our campus.

Visiting with Children?

- **Activity materials** for young worshippers are in the drawers of the literature chests in both vestibules.
- **No child care is available today** during the service in Howard House. Child care will resume next week in Howard House, the building to the right of the Sanctuary.
- **Restrooms:** Please accompany children (under age 10) to the restrooms. (Located through the left door by the bell tables.)

Special Needs?

- **Feel free to ask** ushers and greeters for assistance if you have any questions or special needs.
- **Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices** are available from the ushers in the narthex at the back of the church.

Please come again

- **Sunday Worship Schedule resumes on January 4, 2015**
7:45 a.m. Worship with Communion in the Chapel
10:00 a.m. Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary
- **The Wednesday Noon Worship Service and Bible Study will not meet on December 24 or 31, but will resume on January 7, 2015.**



The Presbyterian Church in Morristown

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