

Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – December 27, 2020
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Welcome, Boyds Presbyterian Church!

Opening Music

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

Glory to God #128

Greeting

Call to Worship [*responsive*]

Shout for joy, all the earth,
and everything within.

Rejoice! Light has come into the world

The mountains sing,
the seas resound
to the praise of your name.

Rejoice! Salvation has been born in the world.

The angels' song rings in the air,
a child has been born.

Hallelujah!

Rejoice! The Savior of the world is among us.

Opening Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession [*responsive*]

O God, you search us out and know us,
and all that we are is open to you.

When we make no room for Christ,
and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we follow shooting stars
and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth,
and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence,

**In your mercy, Lord,
forgive us and heal us.**

[Silence for Personal Prayer]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

We turn to you, O Christ,
perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

We renounce evil;

We claim your love;

We choose to be made whole.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Music for Reflection

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Glory to God #123

We Listen to God’s Word

Scripture

Luke 2:22–40

²² 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 ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

²⁵ 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ ‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.’

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴ 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Sermon

Rev. John Molina-Moore and Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe

We Respond to God's Grace

Invitation to Generosity

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer [*together*]

**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 Depart for Service

Announcements

Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

Commission & Benediction

Closing Music

"Musical Clock Piece"

by G.F. Handel

Wade Meyers, chime

Participating in the service:

Elder Betsy Christie, Boyds Presbyterian

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin