



# THE PROMISE OF PEACE

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | DECEMBER 30, 2018

### **Prelude**

“The Shepherds at the Manger”

Franz Liszt

### **Welcome to The Peoples Church!**

Rev. Case Van Kempen

*Worship is both personal and communal, formal and informal, intimate and casual. Here at The Peoples Church, we recognize that people come to worship God in both joy and pain, faith and doubt, with laughter and with tears. Our worship tries to reflect a desire both for meditation and celebration. Please know you are invited to participate in any and all ways you feel led. Our songs, prayers, words and actions are the works of imperfect people trying to worship a perfect God.*

### **Call to Worship**

Leader: When Jesus is born to Mary and Joseph,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Jesus is presented at the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Simeon holds Jesus in his arms,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: When Anna recognizes Jesus in the temple,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: This very morning,

**People: God is here.**

Leader: In the future we cannot see,

**People: God is there.**

Leader: Let us worship God!

### **Gathering Hymn**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

No. 140

### **ALL ARE WELCOME**

*Whether you are young or old, rich or poor, doubtful or hopeful ... no matter where you are in your faith journey, YOU are welcome here. For those with children, be assured that noises and wiggling are signs of a church that is alive and growing; your entire family is welcome in worship.*



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## **Call to Confession**

Leader: We know that God has been present throughout all of history, even throughout our own histories. We know that God will be with us in our future. Yet often we don't live as if we know that. Let us join in a prayer of confession:

## **Prayer of Confession**

**All: God of grace, you ask no more of us than what we can provide. As Simeon recognized in Jesus the salvation of his people, we recognize in Jesus' way our own wholeness and health, yet we often fail to follow. As Anna recognized in Jesus the redemption of her people, we recognize in Jesus God's saving grace for us, yet we often fail to rejoice and to share this good news. Forgive us; make us wise and joyful and strong so that we live in the understanding of your never-ending love. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: The scriptures promise that God will make all things new. As God makes the year new, may we also be made new by God's love and forgiveness in Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## **Congregational Response** "Great God of Every Blessing" (verse 3)

No. 694

**Your Spirit is our teacher, the light that guides our search,  
Transforming broken people into the holy church.  
For feeding us with mercy, for wisdom you impart:  
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.**

## **First Reading**

Matthew 1: 1-17

(Pew Bible Page 965; Large Print 1,467)

## **Communion** (8:30 a.m.)

## **Children's Moment** (10:30 a.m.)

## **Passing the Peace of Christ** (Please stand if able)

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## **Ministry of Music**

"This Little Baby Boy"  
*Adrian Sanchez, baritone*

Jeff English

## **Second Reading**

Luke 2:22-40

(Pew Bible Page 1,027; Large Print 1,561)

**Sermon**

"Peace in the Promise"

Rev. Case Van Kempen

 @Connect2TPC #TPCsermon

**Hymn of Response**

"Mary and Joseph Came to the Temple"

No. 148

**Prayers of the People**

*(During the pastoral prayer there will be a time to offer prayers of joy and concern, voiced aloud or silently for and on behalf of others.)*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Thanksgiving and Dedication of Gifts**

**Offertory**

"Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child"

arr. Mark Hayes

**Act of Praise**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**God, you call us to give as we have received. On this Sunday following Christmas, when our blessings are great, when you have shared your Child with us, help us to share our blessing with those in need. Take these offerings of money and turn them into vision; vision of all people fed, vision of all people housed, vision of all people educated, vision of all people safe; through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Sending Hymn**

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

No. 128

**Benediction**

Congregational response: **"Jesus is Lord!"**

**Benediction Response**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Postlude**

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come"

F.W. Zachau

## PEOPLES 101

Do you have questions or are interested in learning more about The Peoples Church? Come to Peoples 101 in the Fishbach Library at 11:30 a.m. on **January 6**, for a 30-minute informal discussion about The Peoples Church with a Pastor and members of the Welcome Ministry. All are welcome!

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE!

*Wednesday Night Live!* is on a holiday break for the remainder of the year. Programming will resume January 9, 2019. Be sure to join us in the Robertson Room at 6:30, Wednesdays, in January as Pastor Drew will lead a discussion from the iconic book, *God in Search of Man: A Philosophy of Judaism*, by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

## CONNECTED HEARTS IN CHRIST (CHICs)

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Connected Hearts In Christ (CHICs) Women's Bible Study starts a brand a new study on the Book of Romans beginning **January 10, 2019**. We meet on Thursdays in the Robertson Room from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and all are welcome! This group had 8 members in the Fall and we'd love to see it grow. If you've been looking for a gathering to share faith and fellowship, CHICs might be the perfect answer. Contact Beth Lundy at lundybb@comcast.net with any questions.

## FOOD & FELLOWSHIP

Mark your calendars! Join us for lunch and fellowship on **January 13** at Beggar's Banquet after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. No need to RSVP! The Welcome Ministry has tables reserved for The Peoples Church. All ages welcome.

## THE PEOPLES FORUM

There will not be a Peoples Forum held on January 6 due to the New Year holiday. Programming will resume on **January 13, 2019**.

## GRIEF RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP

Pastor Betsy leads this covenant group through curriculum and discussion that moves participants toward closure of unresolved grief as a result of death, illness, divorce or other losses. This group is an 8 week commitment, with consistent attendance appreciated. The group will meet on Thursdays, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. January 24 - March 21, 2019 (no meeting on March 6). Space is limited, and registration is required by contacting Pastor Betsy. Whether you are dealing with recent loss or a loss from a long time ago, this group has something healing to offer you.

### Holiday hours:

12/31/18 - Open until Noon

1/1/19 - Closed

1/2/19 - Open normal business hours



### ASL Interpreted Service

The Peoples Church is proud to welcome ASL interpreters for our 10:30 a.m. worship service and for special events.

