



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 26, 2021 | First Sunday after Christmas
9:30 a.m. Service

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Currie

VOLUNTARY

Dudley Oakes, guest organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bonnie Shoemaker

When the time was right, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

He came among us, he was one of us.

Bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh,

He came among us and is one of us.

Lover of the unloveable, toucher of the untouchable, forgiver of the unforgiveable,

He came to us as we are, but did not leave us that way.

Bone of our Bone, flesh of our flesh, writing heaven's pardon over earth's mistakes,

God became what we are, so that we might become truly human to the glory of God.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ, who came into this world, not to fix us or solve problems, but to embrace the fullness of all creation with joy. Let us praise your name alongside singing angels, rejoicing shepherds, and searching Magi, that all who ask may be given the gift of your presence, that all who seek may find, and all who knock find the door is opened; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

†*HYMN 143

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have come among us as light shining in the darkness. Forgive us for preferring to live in the darkness rather than basking in your light. Forgive us for trying to trim your gospel down to size so that it better fits with our agenda and lifestyle. Forgive us for preferring to return to old grudges and resentments rather than participate in your reconciliation and justice.

In great mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and stir up what we shall be, in service to our neighbor, as living echoes of your gospel, and as bearers of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

SILENT REFLECTION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Blackmon

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Richard James McGivern, IV

Presentation

Ann Van Horn

Profession of Faith and “The Apostles’ Creed” (*Hymnal, p. 35*)

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Welcome

FIRST LESSON (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Isaiah 52:7-10

GOSPEL LESSON (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

John 1:1-14

SERMON

“Where to Begin...”

Chris Currie

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (*Hymnal, p. 35*)

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

THE OFFERING

Offertory Anthem

“O Magnum Mysterium”

Lauridsen

O great mystery and marvelous sacrament that even animals witnessed the birth of our Lord.

Kameron Lopreore, tenor

*Doxology, Hymn 606

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*HYMN 134

“On this Day the Earth Shall Ring”

PERSONENT HODIE

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Peggy M. Shoemaker by her family.

TODAY'S USHERS are Roger Fleshman (captain), Mayson Buffington, Wesley Simon, Leon Hinson, Maureen Herring, Sallee Benjamin, Jay Young, Caty Johnson, Jane Rasi, and Kandice and Mike Snow.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
is being administered today to
RICHARD JAMES MCGIVERN IV
son of Joanna and Trey McGivern,
grandson of Mary Ann and Norman Mott.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL will not meet this morning or next Sunday but will resume on January 9. The adult class “**Light of the World: A Beginner’s Guide to Advent**” will resume and continue through Sunday, February 20 in the Land Building Lakeside Room and Zoom. In this class, Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN’S RETREAT is filling up, so be sure to send in your registration! We will gather Monday morning, January 24 through noon Tuesday, January 25 at the Solomon Conference Center in Loranger, LA. During our time there, we will worship and pray together, study scripture, renew friendships, and simply recharge our batteries. To learn more about our speaker, Lori Archer Raible, and to download a registration form, go to scapc.org/pw-retreat. The registration deadline is January 7.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Pierce and Hans Jonassen on the death of their son, and to Pierce Young and her family on the death of her brother, Hans Christian Jonassen, who died on Tuesday, December 21.