

O Lord (O Adonai)

A sonnet composed by Rev. Randy Edwards, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church of Kernersville, North Carolina. Based on an ancient antiphon that reads,

“O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai: Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.”

From Sinai's bush which blazed in holy fire
You answered, “I AM,” gave Moses your name.
And promised your arm would reach, never tire
'Til you saved your son from slav'ry and shame.

And even while gath'ring the bread sent each day
Sheltered beneath Sinai's thundering peak,
The people yet complain, reject, and stray
From HIM WHO IS, deliv'er of the weak.

O Lord, redeem! My arms cannot bear
The doing demands of performance lords,
Nor can avoid the tangle of sin's snare
I'm trapped by desire, cupidity's cords.

Baring his arm I AM reached to the lost
By taking the wood of manger and cross.

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Christmas Eve Communion Service

December 24, 2020

First Presbyterian Church
603 Smythe Street ~ Kosciusko, MS 39090
662-289-2435
www.fpckosciusko.org

A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Prelude Video

Once in Royal David's City

THE CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS, PERFORMED DECEMBER 24, 2016



"Once in Royal David's City" has opened the famed Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, England, since 1919. The annual Christmas Eve service has been broadcast around the world since 1931. Eric Milner-White first introduced the service on Christmas Eve, 1918 to offer comfort to people who were distressed, exhausted, wounded, and, in many cases, bereaved at the end of First World War. In this pandemic year, many people experience similar realities and feelings. But while war gave people a sense of community and common purpose, the pandemic forces many to be isolated, distanced, and anxious. Yet our hope remains the same...

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Anthem

MELANIE NEWMAN

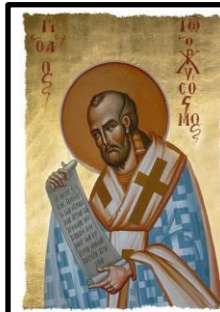
Scripture Reading

LUKE 2:1-7

Sermon

READ BY REV. PHILLIP PALMERTREE

*"The Nativity Sermon of St. John Chrysostom"
The Oldest Christmas Sermon*



*The oldest Christmas sermon we possess is a message preached in AD 386 by **John Chrysostom (c.350-438)**. It was preached at Antioch in Asia Minor (Turkey) during the first year of his public ministry. His skillful preaching earned him the nickname "Chrysostom," which means, "Golden-Mouthed." In 398, John was consecrated as Bishop of Constantinople. John's reforming zeal and uncompromising tongue fell foul of churchmen and civil authorities alike, and he ended his life a persecuted exile in rural Armenia.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

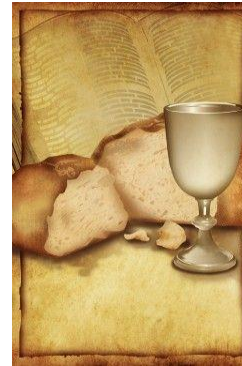
*The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended into hell, the third day he arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy church universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Invitation and Exhortation

Giving of the Bread and the Cup



Guidelines for Receiving the Lord's Supper: *The Lord's Supper is the family meal of Christians. We invite all followers of Jesus Christ to partake of this Sacrament: those who have believed the good news, repented of their sins, and are baptized members in good standing in the Lord's Church. If you are not a Christian, or if you are not prepared to share in this meal, we encourage you to spend this time in prayer.*

Note about Partaking: *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)*

- *Hymn 201 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- *Hymn 208 O Come, All Ye Faithful
- *Hymn 210 Silent Night

Benediction

PCA Christmas Offering (A green offering box is located at each exit.)



Tonight's offering is collected for the **Presbyterian Church in America's (PCA) Ministerial Relief Fund**, administered by PCA Retirement, Benefits, & Insurance, Inc. The Relief Fund provides short-term financial assistance for needy retired and disabled missionaries, pastors, church lay workers, and their dependents. Presently, more than 400 recipients are being assisted and monitored. www.pcarbi.org.