



CHRISTMAS JOY

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Worship

2019 Christmas Joy Offering

“God is with us” (Matt. 1:23)

The Perfect Gift

Revised Common Lectionary

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

Isaiah 7:10–16

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

Romans 1:1–7

Matthew 1:18–25

Opening Hymn:

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

GtG 103

(Consider singing, or having sung one or more stanzas in Korean)

Opening Sentences

The Holy One has given us a sign,

and his name is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Son of God has come to be our Savior,

and his name is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The Holy Spirit has given Mary a child,

and his name is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer or Prayer for Illumination

Be with us, O God,

for this is your promise,

your word to the world.

Pour out the gift of your Spirit

in this time, this place,

and this gathering of your people.

Let your promise be fulfilled,

let your word become flesh,

and let this world be made new;

through Jesus Christ,

Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Hymn:

The People that Walked in Darkness

GtG 86

Confession and Pardon

Water may be poured into the baptismal font.

Then the presider says:

The grace of God overflows for us
through Christ Jesus,
who came into the world to save sinners.
Trusting in God's grace,
let us confess our sin.

Silence for personal confession.

**Gracious God, you alone are holy,
the perfection of goodness and glory.
We confess that we have sinned
and fallen short of your glory—
afraid to trust your promise,
failing to share your gifts.
Forgive us, O God.
Deliver us from sin and death
and restore us to life and grace
through the one you sent to save us,
Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Water may be lifted from the baptismal font.

Then the presider says:

Hear the good news.
Jesus has indeed come into the world
to save us from our sins.
Receive the gift of God's redeeming grace:
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God.

Response to Forgiveness: Refrain from "The People That Walked in Darkness"

GtG 86

Prayers of Intercession

Alternately, the prayers of intercession may be included in the Great Thanksgiving.

Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts;
let your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

We pray for your blessed church . . .
for those who serve with compassion,
for those who lead with conviction,
and for all who share the grace of Christ.

We pray for your beloved world . . .
for justice, reconciliation, and peace,
for the leaders and people of every land,
and for the healing of your good creation.

We pray for your transforming wisdom . . .
for students at Presbyterian-related schools,
for colleges equipping communities of color,
and for all who teach and learn your ways.

We pray for your saving power . . .
for people who are poor or homeless,
for friends and loved ones who are sick,
and for church workers in financial need.

Other prayers of intercession may be offered.

Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts;
let your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

Receive all the prayers of our hearts
through the one you sent to save us,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Invitation to Offering

After a minute for mission about the Christmas Joy Offering, the presider says:

We have already received the perfect gift:
the grace of God in Jesus Christ—
God-with-us, Emmanuel.
With gratitude for this amazing grace,
let us offer the gifts of our lives to the Lord.

Offertory Hymn: **Love Has Come** *GtG 110*

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
receive the gifts we offer you this day—
our resources, our time, our hearts, our lives.

Use these gifts and use our lives
to proclaim the good news
that you are with us always;
through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. **Amen.**

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Like a good shepherd, the Lord will feed us.
God has set a table before us this day:
the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Great Thanksgiving

The Opening Dialogue ("The Lord be with you ...") may be sung or spoken.

Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the gifts of creation and redemption.
Breathing life into dust, you claimed us as your people.
Leading us through the water, you delivered us from death.
Teaching us by your word, you showed us the way of truth and life.

Therefore, we sing with the heavenly host
a hymn of glory, peace and goodwill to all:
The Sanctus ("Holy, holy, Holy Lord ...") may be sung or spoken.

Holy, Holy. Holy, Lord (Leon Roberts)

GtG 556

Gracious God, we give you thanks
for the gift of Jesus Christ our Savior.
In Jesus, your wisdom is with us, leading us into the truth.
In Jesus, your healing is with us, restoring us to life.
In Jesus, your grace is with us, saving us from sin.

With thanksgiving we remember how Jesus took the bread
and blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

With thanksgiving we remember how Jesus took the cup, saying:
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sin.
As often as you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Remembering Jesus, we share this meal
and offer our lives in your service.

The Memorial Acclamation ("Christ has died ...") may be sung or spoken.

Christ has died; Christ is Risen (Leon Roberts) *GtG 557*

Now be with us, gracious God,
through the gift of your Holy Spirit.
Be with us in this bread and cup.
Be with us in this body of believers.
Nourish us with the presence of Christ
and fill us with the power of your Spirit.
Then send us out to be with others—
those who are hungry and thirsty,
those who are vulnerable and alone,
those who are sick or in prison.

Other prayers of intercession may be offered.

As you are with us at this table,
be with us to the end of the age.

All blessing and honor are yours, O God,
through Jesus Christ our Lord
and in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The Amen may be sung or spoken.

Amen (Leon Roberts) *GtG 558*

The Lord's Prayer follows.

Breaking of the Bread

*Since the words of institution were included in the Great Thanksgiving,
the bread is broken (and cup is poured) in silence.*

Then the presider says:

God is with us in the breaking of the bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn during Communion: Taste and See *GtG 520*

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks and praise, O God,
for you are indeed with us—
in this gathering of Christ's body,
through the word read and proclaimed,

through the bread and cup we share
and in our going out to serve.
Fulfill what you have promised
in our lives and in your world
that all may gladly receive
your perfect gift of love:
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn: **Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)** *GtG 127*

Blessing and Charge

The blessing of God is with us—
almighty Sovereign,
merciful Savior,
abiding Spirit.

Alleluia!

Go and be a blessing in God's name.
Share the gift of God's grace
with all the world. **Amen.**