

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service for the First Sunday After Christmas**  
*Dec. 31, 2023*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Down in Yon Forest* - Vicki Collinsworth

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Bring A Torch* - Faye Lopez

**Welcoming Song #145:** *What Child is This* vs. 1

**Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day**

As the land is renewed each year and new crops sprout,  
**so the Lord God is restoring us.**

We are transformed by God's glory and power,  
**God's revelation in a little child.**

Salvation shall bring complete transformation.

**The Lord God is saving us. With our whole being we rejoice in our God.  
Let us worship God!**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Great God, we want to fulfill the law as Joseph and Mary did. We want to sing like the prophets did. We want to witness God's saving love like Simeon did. We want to tell everyone the good news like Anna did. Lead us in the ways of righteousness, that we might recognize your presence among us. We give thanks that while we know that life gives way to death, your death restores us to life. Deepen our faith so that, even as we testify to your birth, we might anticipate the eternal life you gave in your death. Teach us to obey and to serve; use us anywhere and anytime. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #263:** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (stand)

**Call to Confession**

Together let us confess our sin and lament the ways  
in which we have been separated from God, praying:

**Prayer of Confession**

A new neighbor has arrived,  
**but we are too insulated to greet them.**  
A new neighbor has come to our door,



Abide with us, O God of mercy, and receive our prayers according to your abundant grace, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**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**

**Hymn #129:**

*Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming*

(seated)

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**Gracious God, King of Glory, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.**

**Scriptures for the Day**

**Epistle Lesson:** Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:31-46

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** Resolutions

Susan Murray

**Invitation to Discipleship:**

Christ is born!

**Hallelujah, Amen.**

How can we receive this good news, this new birth?

**By accepting God's grace in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

Christ is born!

**Hallelujah, Amen.**

How can we receive this good news, this new birth?

**By answering the invitation to follow,  
to work alongside Christ to transform the world.**

Christ is born!

**Hallelujah, Amen.**

**Dedication of Tithes and Offerings**

(stand)

**Offering #145:**

*What Child is This*

*v. 3*

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen**

**Sending Hymn #119:**

*Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

(stand)

**Charge and Benediction:**

God bless you and keep you, may Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever. Amen.

Christ the Savior is born! Proclaim this good news.

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude: *He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child* - Lloyd Larson**

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