



# Miller Chapel Princeton Theological Seminary

Service of Holy Communion  
Friday, December 4, 2015  
11:30 a.m.

---

Gathering Music

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

red #129

*Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse’s lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.*

*Isaiah ‘twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.*

Call to Worship from Isaiah 12

We have a promise that God will come to us.

**On that day, we will sing to the Lord:**

**You were angry with me, but not anymore. Now you comfort me.**

With joy, we will drink deeply from the fountain of salvation!

**Even now, let us praise and thank the LORD**

**for the wonderful deeds God has done for us.**

Let all the people of Jerusalem praise God with joy!

**For great is the Holy One of Israel who lives among us.**

Hymn

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

red #102

## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession (all uniting)

Humble Lord,

As we enter the Christmas season, we see nativity scenes and hear about advent pageants, and we imagine how wonderful it might have been to approach the manger with the shepherds and magi.

But in so many ways, we have been unwilling to make the journey to find you. We have preferred comfort, rather than the cold and dark unknown. We have acted less like the shepherds and magi—who, trusting your light, braved the darkness to seek you—and more like Herod—who was driven by fear and a desire for control.

Gentle God, we ask for your mercy.

Draw us near to you,

that we might know your love,

and follow you—not only to Bethlehem, but also to Calvary.

Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

### Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-24

### Meditation

### Invitation to the Table

### The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## Words of Institution

### Communion of the People

*Those communing may come forward by the center aisle and return by the side aisles. The chalices near the center aisle contain grape juice; those near the side aisles contain wine. Those desiring to receive the elements by intinction are invited to do so, dipping the bread in the cup and partaking of both bread and wine at once. Wheat-free wafers are available in the glass cup.*

### Music during Communion

Hymn

“Emmanuel”

*Sung first by soloist, then all*

Who would have known,  
who would have known that  
the Lord of all would come this close?  
Not in a storm or a great flood, no –  
in this child is where He’s found.

Who would have known,  
who would have known  
the Lord of all would come this close?  
In this child is where we meet Him;  
Oh, come and praise Emmanuel.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel.

1. When came in flesh th’incarnate Word,  
The heedless world slept on,  
And only simple shepherds heard  
That God had sent His Son.  
When comes our Savior at the last,  
From east to west shall shine,  
Before the splendor, earth aghast  
Shall tremble at the sign.
2. Then shall the pure of heart be blest;  
As mild He comes to them,  
As when upon the virgin’s breast  
He lay at Bethlehem.  
Lord, who could dare see you descend  
In state, unless they knew  
You are the sorr’wing sinner’s Friend,  
The gracious and the true?
3. As mild he comes to hearts of faith,  
Jesus is strong to save;  
He meekly faced an unfair death  
In love, He rent the grave.  
Dwell in our hearts, O humble Lord,  
Hasten your reign thereby,  
That all the world might know your Word,  
And feel that you are nigh.

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Passing the Peace of Christ

---

Preacher: Mary Nickel

Presiding: Justin Nickel

Liturgist: Melissa Sells

Communion Servers: Chris Choi, Laura De Panfilo, Dennis Olson, and Stephanie Thurston

Musicians: Jenni Herold, Luke Zerra, Nick Yancey, Joel Estes, Julia Sprague, and Hayley Cohen