

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

When passing the bread to your neighbor say, "The body of Christ, broken for you."

When passing the cup to your neighbor say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."

We will hold each element until all are served and then partake together.

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

**BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD**

\*HYMN OF SENDING #236 "As with Gladness"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #747 "Go With Us, Lord"

**Go with us, Lord, and guide the way though this and every day,  
that in your Spirit strong and true our lives may be our gift to you.**

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "March of the Three Kings"

George Frideric Handel



**WELCOME VISITOR!** We are delighted that you are here to share worship of our Lord Jesus this morning together with the rest of us. We want you to be well informed about the Christian faith and about the church so don't be afraid to ask. You may communicate with us in several ways. Ask a neighbor in your pew, fill out a blue first-time visitor card, add your name to the Ritual of Friendship pad and by all means do not hesitate to contact our pastor. May God bless you this morning and throughout the week.

Rev. Susan Bennett, Pastor  
Dorothy Clark, Organist  
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

Ward Gailey, Music Director  
Linda Hodges, Office Manager  
Nursery Attendants: Suzie Wharton

# *Stockbridge Presbyterian Church*

*January 7, 2018*

*11:00 a.m.*



## *Celebrating the Sacrament Of Communion*

*When they saw that the star had stopped,  
they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the  
house they saw the child with Mary his mother;  
and they knelt down and paid him homage.*

*Matthew 2:10-11a*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

*(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.)*

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY "Kings of Orient"

Gordon Young

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Terry Holmes

**Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you for submission to church prayer list.**

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

\*Those who are able, please stand.

#### \*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT #71 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!  
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!  
All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near;  
Praise Him in glad adoration.**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 60)

Liturgist: Terry Holmes

Leader: Arise, shine, for our Light has come!

**All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.**

Leader: We see his radiance;

**All: And our hearts rejoice.**

**All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!**

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #233 "We Three Kings of Orient Are"

### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, forgive us when we close the doors that lead to you, believing some should remain outside. Forgive us when we judge and criticize. Help us to see that your grace is for all, and the way to you should always be open for all of us sinners. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Colossians 1:13-14)

Leader: God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Friends, rejoice again in God's amazing grace:

**All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen.**

#### \*GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

## PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Monica Coutin-Baxter

(Children will be dismissed to Children's Worship following the anthem.)

#### SOLO "The Gentiles Shall Come to Thy Light" Maurice Greene

Ward Gailey

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING Matthew 2:1-12

Page 2, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING Ephesians 3:1-12

Page 181, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON "For God So Loved the World"

Rev. Susan Bennett

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH 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 rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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 catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### MINISTRY OF GIVING

#### OFFERTORY "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

Michael Praetorius

#### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise him all creatures here below,  
Praise him above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE