

MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "How Lovely Shines the Morning Star"

Johann Christoph Bach

*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 AND 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.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*HYMN OF SENDING #231 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #393 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

**Before our Father's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.**

*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
Glory Cumbow, Youth Director
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

Ward Gailey, Music Director
Linda Hodges, Office Manager
Nursery: Suzie Wharton & Breon Williams

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

**January 8, 2017
11:00 a.m.**



PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.
Otherwise, Susan will turn into her evil twin and give you The Look.)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY "As With Gladness Men of Old"

Henry J. Markworth

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 #2 "O Worship the King"

**O tell of his might, O sing of his grace, whose robe is the light,
whose canopy space. His chariots of wrath the deep thunder clouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Isaiah 60)

Liturgist: Terry Holmes

Leader: Arise, shine, for your light has come!

All: The glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Leader: For darkness shall cover the earth,

All: But the Lord will arise upon you and his glory will appear over you.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #236 "As With Gladness"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, we are filled and surrounded by your light, yet there are times when we
choose the darkness. We hate, we do not forgive, we can become bitter. Forgive us, Lord. You are
all we need; the light of your love and mercy can chase away every shadow. Remind us daily of that
powerful truth. Please continue to hear us as we confess now in silence ...**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 5:1-2a)

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. Friends, give
thanks again for the great good news of the gospel:

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

*HYMN OF CONSECRATION #233 "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (verses 1, 2, and 5 only)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Monica Coutin-Baxter

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

ANTHEM "Amid Life's Daily Clamor" arr. Gailey

Ward Gailey, soloist

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

Page 649, 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 "And the Darkness Did Not Overcome It"

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.**