

OFFERTORY "Comfort, Comfort, Ye My People"

Georg Böhm

*DOXOLOGY

**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 #589 "O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #14 "Now Thank We All Our God" (verse 2)

**O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us in his grace and guide us
when perplexed, and free us from all ills in this world and the next.**

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "The Lord Will Come"

C. S. Long



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
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director
Ward Gailey, Music Director
Dorothy Clark, Organist

Linda Hodges, Office Manager
Tom Francis, Custodian
Nursery: Stephanie Phillips & Megan Bennett

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2015

11:00 a.m.



*But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah,
for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will
bear you a son, and you will name him John."
Luke 1:13*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

OPENING VOLUNTARY "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

Acolyte: Elle Roberts

Paul Manz

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Darin Clipper

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 #342 "Rejoice, the Lord is King" (verse 1)

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!

Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (from Psalm 25)

Liturgist: Jeffrey Cochran

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

All: He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Leader: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

All: Who are they that fear the Lord? He will teach them the way that they should choose.

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #152 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Allison Fuqua & Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, we know that you desire to commune with us, and still we often ignore your voice and lose ourselves in distractions. We hold you away from our hearts and our lives; we try to keep our secrets and close you out. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to trust your love and grace. Help us to keep the doors to our inner beings wide open. Please continue to hear us as we confess now in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Romans 3:23-24)

Leader: All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; we are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. 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

*HYMN OF CONSECRATION #405 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Betsy Sierra

ANTHEM "Recitative and Aria from Messiah" G. F. Handel

Ward Gailey, tenor

"Comfort Ye"

"Every Valley"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

Page 627, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Luke 1:5-25

Page 52, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Reclaiming Hope"

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