

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 #177 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (verse 3)

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to you: here, Lord, abide!**  
**Let me your inner presence feel: your grace and love in me reveal.**

\*CLOSING "Prepare the Royal Highway"

Swedish hymn, arr. Michael Burkhardt



**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

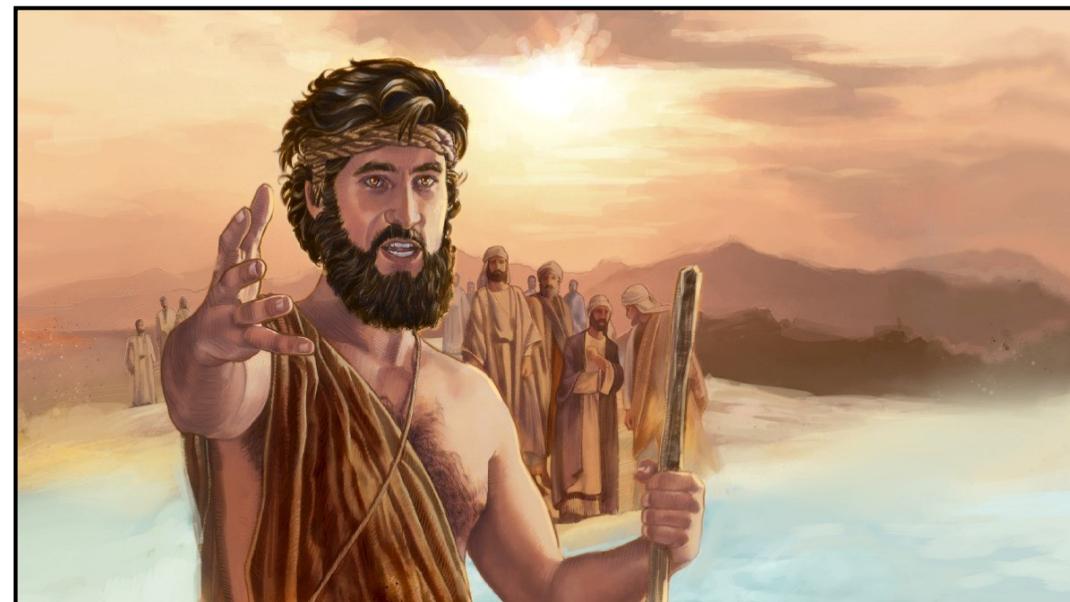
Ward Gailey, Music Director  
Linda Hodges, Office Manager  
Nursery Attendant: Suzie Wharton

# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

*First Sunday of Advent*

*December 3, 2017*

*11:00 am*



*Celebrating the Sacrament Of Communion*

## PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

#### OPENING VOLUNTARY "Wake, Awake, For Night is Flying"

German hymn, arr. Paul Manz

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Jeffrey Cochran

**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 #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (verse 1)

**Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits!  
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 85)

Liturgist: Jeffrey Cochran

Leader: Let us hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

**All: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him!**

Leader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground; the Lord will give what is good.

**All: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for his steps.**

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

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #153 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Roberts Family

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, forgive us when we strive for attention, when we feel we must be right. Forgive our attempts to put ourselves above others, and for the times when pride takes over. Help us to remember and truly believe that all good and perfect things come only from you, as a gift. Please hear us now as we continue our confession 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, give thanks again for 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

Tami Pass

#### ANTHEM "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" arr. K. Henson

Arlene Lathrop, oboe

Sanctuary Choir

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

#### 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 Mark 1:1-8

Page 32, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON "Our Favorite Word"

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 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"

plainsong chant, arr. Flor Peeters

#### \*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;**

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

#### CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The Lord be with you.