

OFFERTORY "Shepherd's Pipe"

Gordon Young

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 #179 "Joy to the World!"

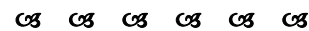
*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #177 "Jesus, Name Above All Names"

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful"

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
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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

11:00 a.m.



*When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting,
the child leapt in her womb.*

Luke 1:41a

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 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Acolyte: Collin Roberts

arr. Gordon Young

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Aaron Roberts

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 #114 "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" (verse 2)

**We'll praise his name forever, we'll praise his name forever,
we'll praise his name forever, Christ the Lord.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Zephaniah 3)

Liturgist: Jason Howard

Leader: Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel!

All: **Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!**

Leader: The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has turned away your enemies.

All: **Your God will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love.**

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

*HYMN OF PRAISE #154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Brooklyn Allen & Elle Roberts

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when we judge each other harshly. Forgive us for the times we have no compassion for the hurting, the poor; forgive our self-absorption and our selfishness. Help us to open our hearts to your love and mercy, and to offer these to those around us as well as to ourselves. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Romans 8:1-2)

Leader: There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and of death. 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 #385 "Search Me, O God"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sue Scheer

ANTHEM "Mary Was the First One to Carry the Gospel!"

Lowry & Gaither/arr. Frazier/Matthews

Linda Roberts and Jeffrey Cochran, soloists

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Page 826, Pew Bible

SECOND READING Luke 1:39-56

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Page 53, Pew Bible

SERMON "Reclaiming Joy"

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