

OFFERTORY "The Journey to Bethlehem"

Cesar Franck

\*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 #184 "What Child is This"

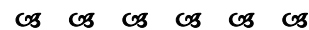
\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" (verse 2)

**Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a temple set apart  
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY Partita on "People Look East"

Joseph Bertolozzi



**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, Suzie Wharton

# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

*Second Sunday of Advent  
December 10, 2017  
11:00 a.m.*



## 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 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Johannes Brahms

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Arlene Lathrop

**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 126)

Liturgist: Arlene Lathrop

Leader: The Lord has done great things for us!

**All: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.**

Leader: Then our mouth was filled with laughter,

**All: And our tongue with shouts of joy.**

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

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Ingram Family

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, forgive the fear that too often rules our lives. Forgive us when we try to control people and events, and when we attempt to hide our sin, hoping you and others will not notice. Help us to trust you as fully and completely as Mary did, casting all our cares upon you. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 John 1:9)

Leader: Scripture tells us that if we confess our sin, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sin, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 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 #169 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Aaron Roberts

ANTHEM "People Look East" Eugene Butler

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Psalm 126

Page 541, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Luke 1:46b-55

Page 53, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "Joy Wins!"

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