

OFFERTORY "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?"

setting by Paul Manz

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 #158 "Bless Be the God of Israel"

**On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise,  
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eye, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the  
paths of peace; O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Magnificat" (My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord) Jean Francois D'andrieu



**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

Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2016

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"

Acolyte: Collin Roberts

Johannes Brahms

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Jason Howard

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

**Jesus, name above all names, beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.**

**Emmanuel, God is with us, blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 146)

Liturgist: Jason Howard

Leader: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

**All: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever;**

Leader: Who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

**All: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.**

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

#### \*HYMN OF PRAISE #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Bettye and Jeffrey Cochran

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, too often we see that the world can be dark, and we let the darkness threaten our faith. We forget to give thanks. We forget to look for joy in you, where you've told us joy can always be found. We let our hearts lose hope. Forgive us, Lord. Remind us that the Light of the world has indeed come, and that you continue to shine. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...**

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 Timothy 1:15a)

Leader: The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 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

#### \*HYMN OF CONSECRATION #706 "I Come with Joy" (verses 1, 4, and 5 only)

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

John Dunn

#### ANTHEM "Rejoice, Rejoice, God's Kingdom Is Coming" Biery

Sanctuary Choir

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### FIRST READING Isaiah 35:1-10

Page 623, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING Luke 1:46b-55

Page 52, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SERMON "When Truth Brings 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