#### MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "Ding Dong! Merrily on High" arr. Larry Shackley Sanctuary Choir, Decatur Strings, Arlene Lathrop, oboe

\*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above ve heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;

#### 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

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #186 "Silent Night"

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright 'round you virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at the birth, Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

\*CLOSING VOLUNTARY "Angels We Have Heard on High"

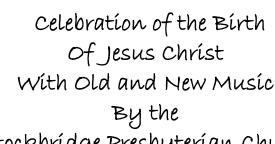
Hugo Gehrke

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 Attendants: Stephanie Phillips, Megan Bennett





Stockbridge Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir, Youth and Children, And special guests, The Decatur Strings

Music by Johann Beyer, Larry Shackley, Míchael W. Smíth, Bill Gaither, J.S. Bach, and Dietrich Buxtehude. Edited and translated by Ward Gailey

# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 20, 2015 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.

And also with you.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Johann Samuel Beyer (1669-1744)

Lin Gailey, conductor

Ward Gailey, tenor

Decatur Strings

Acolyte: Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Tracey Clipper

ed. Edward Klammer

Please use this time for silent meditation and preparation for worship. Prayer cards are in the pew rack in front of you. Please place in the offering plate for inclusion in the morning prayers and addition to our church's prayer list.

## **GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

\*Those who are able, please stand.

CHORAL INTROIT "O Lord, We Welcome You" Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) Sanctuary Choir, Decatur Strings

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 81)

Liturgist: Linda Roberts Leader: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.

Raise a song, sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp.

Leader: Blow the trumpet at the new moon; At the full moon, on our festal day. All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God! All:

\*CAROL HYMN #182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Pass Family and Bryan Wharton

**CALL TO CONFESSION** 

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, unto whom all hearts are open, and no desires hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Ephesians 1:7-8a)

Leader: In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. Friends, give thanks again for the great good news of the kingdom of God:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Amen. All:

\*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.

### PROCLAMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

\*CAROL HYMN #229 "The First Noel"

Ward Gailey CHILDREN'S SERMON

ANTHEM "Christmastime"

Michael W. Smith & Joanna Carlson, arr. Larson

Sanctuary Choir, Youth and Children Decatur Strings, Arlene Lathrop, oboe

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ANTHEM "Mary Was the First One to Carry the Gospel" Lowry & Gaither, arr. Frazier & Matthews Linda Roberts and Jeffrey Cochran, soloists Sanctuary Choir

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-5a

Page 815, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. All:

SECOND READING Luke 3:1-6

Page 56, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

CANTATA "In dulci jubilo" (With Sweet Rejoicing)

Dietrich Buxtehude(1637-1707) edited/translated by Ward Gailey

## 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.