

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 ye 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 yon 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

*Celebration of the Birth  
Of Jesus Christ  
With Old and New Music*

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

*Music by Johann Beyer, Larry Shackley,  
Michael W. Smith, 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.

**All: And also with you.**

#### CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Lin Gailey, conductor

Ward Gailey, tenor

Decatur Strings

Johann Samuel Beyer (1669-1744)

ed. Edward Klammer

Acolyte: Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter

#### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Tracey Clipper

**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.

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

Leader: Blow the trumpet at the new moon;

**All: At the full moon, on our festal day.**

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

#### \*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:

**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

#### \*CAROL HYMN #229 "The First Noel"

#### CHILDREN'S SERMON

Ward Gailey

#### 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.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### SECOND READING Luke 3:1-6

Page 56, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**All: 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.**