

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices during this hour of worship.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Acolyte: Payton Scott

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: John Elliott

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.*

*CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT "This Is A Day of New Beginnings"

***This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
Time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.***

***Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new.***

*CALL TO WORSHIP from Psalm 29

Liturgist: Allie Dunn

Leader: Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

All: Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

Leader: The Lord sits enthroned as king forever. May the Lord give strength to his people!

All: May the Lord bless his people with peace!

All: Hallelujah! Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN # 71 "Praise to the Lord the Almighty"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Gracious God, forgive us when we hold grudges, when we choose to carry resentment. Forgive us when we do not show mercy, and hold others accountable for their sins, while ignoring our own. Forgive us when we live in broken relationships, and do not seek reconciliation or offer it to others. Help us to see and receive you as the God of grace and mercy that you are, and offer that same forgiveness to those around us. Please hear us now as we continue our confession in silence ...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (1 John 1:9)

Leader: If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Friends, give thanks for God's steadfast mercy and grace:

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

*GLORIA PATRI

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 # 382 "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

David E. Dillard

ANTHEM "The Gift of Love"

Sanctuary Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Hosea 11:1-4

Page 794, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING II Corinthians 5:17-21

Page 170, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "To Love As We Are Loved"

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.

OFFERTORY

**DOXOLOGY*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!*

*Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
O praise Him, O praise Him; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

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

**CLOSING HYMN # 59 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"*

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Go Forth for God"*

*Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,
In God's good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we see face to face.
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.*

**CLOSING VOLUNTARY*

David E. Dillard



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 our Christian faith and about our 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
David E. Dillard, Director of Music Ministries
Stephanie Dunn, Youth Director
Mary Thompson, Christian Ed Coordinator

Levena Hemmle, Office Manager
Tom Francis, Custodian
Nursery Attendants: Stephanie Phillips, Megan Bennett, and Charlotte Culpepper

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

**January 8, 2012
11:00 a.m.**



*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. We entreat you on
behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.*

II Corinthians 5:18, 20b