

*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 #223 "Star Child"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #236 "As With Gladness" (verse 2)

**As with joyful steps they sped to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before him whom heaven and earth adore,
so, may we with willing feet ever seek the mercy seat.**

*POSTLUDE "The Shepherd's Pipe"

Gordon Young



**Prayers by Rev. Debra Avery, First Presbyterian Church, Oakland CA.
Sung response text by David Wood (copyright © 2012)

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. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor
Dorothy Clark, Organist
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

Ward Gailey, Music Director
Linda Hodges, Office Manager
Nursery: Suzie Wharton and Allie Dunn

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

*Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018
11:00 a.m.*



*And Mary said,
"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"
Luke 1:46-47*

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

(Please silence and refrain from using all electronic devices.)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "What Child Is This"

Paul Manz

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Gene Ingram

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 #157 "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" (verse 3)

**Come now and set us free, O God our Savior;
come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all nations.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP: (from Psalm 89:1-2)

Liturgist: Gene Ingram

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
All: with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
One: I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
All: Your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
One: Let our souls magnify the Lord!

*HYMN OF PRAISE #189 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Newsome Family

Sung response (to the tune DIX)**

**Light a candle bright and tall for the joy this season brings.
Joy like fountains brimming full. Through our world now let it ring!
Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Forgive us, O God:

**when our spirits despair and we deny our blessedness,
when we ignore the mighty things you have done,
when we doubt your mercy, and fail to share it with others,
when we are proud in the thoughts of our hearts,
when our power rests on the oppression of others,
when our wealth causes others to be empty and hungry.**

Hear us now as we confess in silence the particular ways we need your grace...

[silence]

According to your mercy, O God, forgive us. Renew us in faithfulness and obedience, that our lives might magnify your name and show forth your abundant grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Friends, hear and believe and rejoice in this good news: The mercy of the Lord is for those who fear him, from generation to generation.

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

*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

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Aaron Roberts

ANTHEM "Anton tiruliru liru" Colombian Carol

Children's Choir

Marie Anne, Maxwell, and Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter, soloists

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child" African American Melody

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Zephaniah 3:14-20

Page 826, Pew Bible

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Luke 1:39-55

Page 53, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Songs of Joy"

Rev. Betsy Turner

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

OFFERTORY "Gavotte" J.B. Lully

Monica Andrea Coutin-Baxter, violin