

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

*CAROL #182 "O Come All Ye Faithful"
Arlene Lathrop, oboe

Descant by Ward Gailey

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE "Glory to God in the Highest" Pergolesi

Sanctuary Choir

POSTLUDE "Shout the Glad Tidings"

Charles Avison



**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
Dorothy Clark, Organist
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus

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

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018
11:00 a.m.



A Service of Scripture and Song

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him!

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

PRELUDE "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Hugo Gehrke

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.

CHORAL INTROIT "Ding Dong Merrily on High" arr. Shackley

Sanctuary Choir

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

**Those who are able, please stand.*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Jason Howard

One: Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told and sung to you?

All: **Yes, we know the good news: The Lord is the everlasting God, yet he comes to dwell among us!**

One: Then get you up to a high mountain! Lift up your voice with strength! Break forth together in singing!

All: **For to us a child is born, for us a son is given!**

One: Come to the barn, kneel at his manger, bring your gifts.

All: **We rejoice in anticipation of the birth of Jesus, our Savior!**

*CAROL #179 "Joy to the World!"

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Novette & Liam Scott

Sung response (to the tune DIX)**

Light a candle bright and tall for a Love which knows no end.

Love that comes to one and all. Fear and hatred to upend.

Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Love, to us, we pray.

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Almighty God, we confess that our hearts have not been open to all that you have revealed to us in the nativity of your son. You sent Christ to be born as a helpless child, and yet we have not attended to the suffering of your children. You chose faithful Mary to be mother of our Lord, and yet we have not believed and attended to the struggles of women. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and yet we have not responded to the cries of the homeless.

You announced your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore those whose labor makes our comforts possible. Hear us now as we confess in silence the particular ways we need your grace.

~silence~

Forgive our lack of attention, and free us for joyful compassion, that we may sing Christ's song boldly and share his good news by serving others. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*RESPONSE **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

LESSON Luke 1:26-38

*CAROL #185 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Monica Coutin-Baxter

(Children will be dismissed to Children's Worship following the anthem.)

LESSON Luke 1:39-45

ANTHEM "Villancico" Puerto Rican Melody, arr. Simeone

Sanctuary Choir

LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

ANTHEM "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Crouch

Men's Choir

LESSON Luke 2:1-7

ANTHEM "Only a Baby Came" Natalie Sleeth

Women's Choir

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Christmas Affirmation (See Insert)

OFFERTORY "Twas In the Moon of Wintertime"

Native American carol, arr. Callahan

*RESPONSE **Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**