

OFFERTORY

Andrea Emmel

*DOXOLOGY

OLD 100TH

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 #184 "What Child Is This?"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #218 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (verse 3)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

*POSTLUDE

Andrea Emmel



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

December 30, 2018

11:00 a.m.

First Sunday of Christmas



*"...for my eyes have seen your salvation, which
you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."*

Luke 2:30-31

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.**

CHIMING THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Andrea Emmel

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Linda Roberts

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 #540 "Two Thousand Years Since Bethlehem" (verse 1)

Two thousand years since Bethlehem first welcomed Jesus' birth:

The startling truth began to dawn that God had come to earth.

And as he grew and lived and taught a different way unfurled:

A way of joy and love and peace, a new start for the world!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Linda Roberts

One: Our God came to us as a helpless little baby.

All: **The Word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood.**

One: In Christ, we meet God face to face, and the Spirit dwells among us.

All: **This is good news – good news for everyone!**

One: Therefore, let everyone – angels and shepherds, friends and strangers, young and old – offer thanks and praise to the God of our salvation.

All: **Let us worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*HYMN OF PRAISE #188 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of wonder, when Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, they found there was no room. We confess that in the midst of all our anxieties, we have not made room in our hearts for others. We confess that, paralyzed by fear, prejudice, or apathy, we have not made room in our homes for the stranger. We confess that, forgetting the welcome we have received, we have not made room in your church for those who are different from us. We confess that in the busyness of Christmas time, we have not made room in our lives for you. Hear us now as we confess in silence the particular ways we need your grace...

[silence]

Gracious God, forgive us and renew us. Use this time to break us open. Help us to make room in our hearts, homes, church, and every aspect of our lives for you, for your children, and for the good things you are doing among us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: God is good! God is faithful! God is merciful! In Christ, God has broken in among us to show and tell the whole world the good news:

All: **We are forgiven, we are freed. We are beloved, we are blessed. 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

Tami Pass

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

ANTHEM "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" arr. Crouch

Sanctuary Choir Men

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Psalm 148

Page 550, Pew Bible

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Luke 2:21-40

Page 55, Pew Bible

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "A Long-Awaited Meeting"

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