

*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.

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 #176 "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "Night of Silence" (with Silent Night)

Daniel Kantor,
arr. John Ferguson

Arlene Lathrop, oboe
Please join the choir on cue and sing verse 1 of Silent Night, twice.

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. (repeat)



**Advent candle liturgy and hymn were written by Martha Spong and used with her permission.

WELCOME VISITOR! Welcome, guests! Thank you for joining us in worship today. We invite everyone to sign the Friendship Pad, and our first-time visitors to also fill out the blue card found in the pew. If you have any questions or wish to become a member of our congregation, don't hesitate to ask a neighbor on the pew or the pastor. We are honored by your presence here today, and hope to welcome you back next week!

Rev. Betsy Turner, Interim Pastor
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus
Linda Hodges, Office Manager

Ward Gailey, Music Director
Gena Ridgeway, Accompanist
Nursery: Suzie Wharton and Allie Dunn

Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2019
11:00 a.m.



MAGNIFICAT

with Combined Choirs of Epiphany Lutheran Church
and Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

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 "Sleepers, Awake!" J.S. Bach Donald Harris, organ

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD Beadle: Jim Beisner
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 #154 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 2)

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by thine advent here,
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight.**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE** The McQuade Family

One: Today is the third Sunday of Advent. With growing expectation, we join Christians around the world in this joyful and holy season of watching, waiting, and hoping for the coming Christ.

All: Today, we light a pink candle that brings to mind the lightness in our hearts and joy in our spirits that comes from knowing and serving God.

One: The prophet Isaiah shared a word with the grieving world, a vision of vibrant renewal. All of creation will be glad. Even the earth itself will praise God!

All: Dry places like deserts will be full of blooming life.

One: Joy will grow like new crocuses poking up through the ground and spreading out in the front yard.

All: The whole earth will sing praises to God, and so will we!

One: As we wait faithfully for God's time, we light the candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy.

All: In God's time of joy, all sorrow and sighing will leave us.

Sung response "Now It's Time to Light the Candle" Regents Square

**Now it's time to light the candle, In God's name, we will rejoice.
Bells and organ play together, We will shout in one loud voice.
Light will overcome the darkness: See the joy the Christchild brings.**

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Liturgist: Jim Beisner

One: Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.

All: Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

One: Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

All: for great is the Holy One in our midst. Blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.

One: Come, let us magnify the Lord!

*HYMN #153 "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection, save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the ways of your salvation. Hear us now as we confess in silence the particular ways we need your grace...

~silence~

In your great mercy, forgive us, O God, not according to what we deserve, but according to the promises you have made to us and our ancestors. We pray in the name of Christ, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Rejoice, my friends, in God our savior, who looks upon us with favor.

**All: The Mighty One has done great things for us, and holy is his name!
Thanks be to God!**

JAZZ GLORIA

Christopher Gomes, percussion, Tim Lohr, bass

Natalie Sleeth

PROCLAIMING AND ENACTING THE WORD

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Aaron Roberts

OFFERTORY "What Shall We Sing for the Child?" Catalan Carol, arr. Howard Helvey

*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.**

SCRIPTURE READING Numbers 24:17-19 Carolyn Francis

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

"A la Nanita Nana" from Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest arr. Conrad Susa

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-55 Rev. Betsy Turner

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

"Magnificat" Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE READING James 5:7-10 Jim Beisner

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

"Tomorrow Will Be My Dancing Day" English Carol, arr. Howard Helvey