

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 #191 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #218 "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (chorus, verse 3, chorus)

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.  
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 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

John Francis Wade



**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  
Tom Francis, Custodian Emeritus  
Linda Hodges, Office Manager

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

# Stockbridge Presbyterian Church

December 29, 2019

11:00 a.m.

*First Sunday in Christmas*



*"A thrill of hope! The weary world rejoices!"  
O Holy Night, John S. Dwight*

## 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 "As With Gladness Men of Old"

Conrad Kucher

### PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

Beadle: Monica Coutin-Baxter

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 #182 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 65)

Liturgist: Monica Coutin-Baxter

One: Christ is born – Alleluia!

All: **Jesus is among us – Alleluia!**

One: The Word has become flesh and dwells among us –

All: **Alleluia! Praise God!**

One: Indeed, the weary world rejoices!

All: **Alleluia! Let us worship God!**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE #179 "Joy to the World"

### 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 children. You chose humble Mary to be mother of our Lord Jesus, and yet we have not attended to the struggles of women. You announced your birth to lowly shepherds, yet we ignore laborers and those who tend our farms and fields. The holy family could find no room in Bethlehem but a stable, and yet we have not attended to the cry of the homeless. They fled in fear to another land, seeking safety, and yet we have not attended to the plight of refugees and asylum-seekers. You came in perfect peace and love, but we have fallen short of that love again and again, in our words, our thoughts, and our deeds. In your great mercy, hear us now as we confess in silence the particular ways we need your grace...**

~silence~

**God of comfort and joy, forgive the ways we have not truly received the promise of Christmas. Set us free to truly welcome Jesus into our lives. Give us joyful compassion to serve joyfully in his name and share his compassion and love. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear again the good news of great joy which is for all people: To us has been born, in the city of David, a Savior who is Christ the Lord.

All: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace among all God's people!**

\*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

Paul Szeto

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

\*HYMN #188 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:7-9

Page 652, Pew Bible

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING Matthew 2:13-23

Page 2, Pew Bible

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON "The Weary World Rejoices"

Rev. Betsy Turner

SOLO "O Holy Night"

Ward Gailey

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION (see insert)

INVITATION TO THE MINISTRY OF GIVING

OFFERTORY "Still, Still, Still"

Walter Ehret

\*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.**