



 **WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 12, 2021

## WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to the Lord.**

## PRELUDE

*Allegro, from Organ Concerto No. 2, G.F. Handel<sup>1</sup>*

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY - Doug & Juanita Halls

Leader: As we gather today and light this candle of joy, we are reminded of Mary's acclamation:

**People: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Leader: We are reminded by the prophet Isaiah:

**People: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Leader: Let us, like the desert refreshed by the glory of the Lord, rejoice and lift our voices in worship with praise and song.

**People: Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!**

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### \*HYMN 403

*Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty, Unser Herrscher<sup>2</sup>*

1 Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer; O how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace.

2 Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heaven on earth must be; to my heart O enter thou; let it be thy temple now.

3 Speak, O Lord, and I will hear thee; let thy will be done indeed; may I undisturbed draw near thee, while thou dost thy people feed. Here of life the fountain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our hope, our peace, our joy, and our love, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we

**harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve you in the world as followers of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ** *(continue with silent confession...)*  
**Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

**Leader:** For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed, the night is far gone, the day is near:

**People:** **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

## **\*ACCLAMATION HYMN**

*Angels We Have Heard on High (refrain only)<sup>3</sup>*

*Gloria, in Excelsis Deo! Gloria, in Excelsis Deo!*

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Amy Poland

*After the message, children may join the teacher for Children's Time in room 11.*

## **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

### **SOLO**

*Pifa, G.F. Handel<sup>4</sup>*

### **NEW TESTAMENT LESSON**

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two

coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## SERMON

*"What Should We Do?"*

## \*HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers<sup>5</sup>*



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

## CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns  
 Pastoral Prayer  
 The Lord's Prayer

### PRAYER RESPONSE HYMN 137

*He Came Down, He Came Down*<sup>6</sup>

He came down that we may have peace, He came down that we may have peace,  
 He came down that we may have peace, hallelujah for evermore.

### \*HYMN 611

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee, Hymn to Joy*<sup>7</sup>

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays; stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

*Allegro, from Organ Concerto No. 2, G.F. Handel*<sup>8</sup>

### ***Worship Notes:***

*Please take a moment to fill out a friendship form located in your bulletin. The friendship, offerings, and poinsettia forms may be placed in the plates as you exit the sanctuary. Extra forms and pencils are available on the narthex table. Coffee fellowship after worship is in the Fellowship Hall downstairs.*

1 Music Setting: Public Domain

2 Text and Music: Public Domain Instrumental setting: Hal Hopson, ©2000 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

3 Text and Music: Public Domain

4 Music Setting: Public Domain

5 Text and Music: Public Domain

6 Text: Cameroon song Music: Cameroon melody, transcr. And arr. John L. Bell, 1986 Music arr. ©1986 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.) Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

7 Text and Music: Public Domain Instrumental setting: Hal Hopson, ©2000 Hope Publishing Company. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

8 Music Setting: Public Domain

### **Leaders Today:**

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Liturgist: Richard Appen

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Ushers: Paul & Linda Bishop

### **Personnel:**

Steve Kurr, violin

Kristen Flak, violin

Nancy Kurr, viola

Phila Poff, cello



## WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS December 12

### **TODAY: Advent Together - Intergenerational Event**

Join us following the service for our Advent Event! We'll be decorating cookies and making decorations and ornaments. Some of our cookies and decorations will be shared with the students of Pres House as they enter semester finals and some are for us! This event is a wonderful opportunity to gather together and enjoy Advent.

**Angel Tree—If you took a tag, gifts are due today. Any questions, talk to Kathy Kamp  
THANK YOU!**

### **Coffee Prep Help Still Needed!**

We still could use a few extra folks to rotate in now and then! Please consider being a coffee helper. It's easy! We have directions and will train you. You can even set up the coffee before Sunday. **The sign up is on the coat-rack table in the narthex.** If you have questions, please call Kathy Key at 608-640-0134.

### **2022 Dine with Nine (or Ten)**

A reminder to sign up for Dine with Nine if you are interested and have not done so already. The sign-up is in the Narthex or you can send an email to Juanita at [jjh71152@gmail.com](mailto:jjh71152@gmail.com). There will be a brief meeting after church today to answer any questions.

### **Volunteers Needed for Another Thoreau Family Food Delivery**

On **December 17th**, Westminster will again deliver boxes of shelf stable food weighing 12 - 15 pounds to the homes of Thoreau families. Six teams of 2 people have signed up, but we could use one or two more teams. At 8:30am, the teams will meet at Westminster to receive instructions and will then load 2 boxes/family into their vehicles. A navigation app is recommended for directions. Entire process will take about 2 hours. **If you're available to help**, please contact Rhea Schultz at [rannschi@gmail.com](mailto:rannschi@gmail.com). Talk to your spouse or ask a friend to partner with you. Thank You!

### **Needed for Thoreau Students**

The social worker at Thoreau has informed us that they are in need of mittens, coats, & hats for students. If you have a children's coat (sizes 6-12) that you would want passed along to the school, please bring it into the church (narthex) and the Mission Committee will make sure it gets there. Thank you!

## **From Ruth Hein**

A Sincere Thank You to all for your prayers, cards and other kindnesses in the past two months for my coping with my brother's death and my knee surgery. I had my 6 week check-up with the surgeon 12/6 and per the xray – it looks great – that jagged tooth extra bone is indeed gone. Hallelujah!

## **An Advent Devotional for You—Last Call**

*Rise Up Shepherd: Advent Reflections on the Spirituals* by Luke A. Powery. African American spirituals give us profound insights into the human condition and the Christian life. This is a follow up to the Lenten devotional that we used last Spring, also written by Dr. Powery. Each daily reflection includes scripture readings, a focus on one of the spirituals, and a closing prayer, and is an ideal companion through this special season. The first day of Advent is Sunday, November 28. Books are \$12 and are available through today in the narthex. It is also available on Kindle and can be purchased through Amazon.

## **Christmas Joy Offering**

The goal of this special offering remains the same as when it began. Retired church workers and their families are supported through pension assistance and housing supplements provided by the Board of Pensions. Emergency Assistance Grants are made available to those currently serving in churches when an unexpected need or financial crisis arises. And future leaders are aided through the Presbyterian Church's commitment to education and leadership development, including scholarships to many students of color to continue their education. The theme of this year's Christmas Joy Offering is a verse from the Book of Proverbs: "A gift opens doors." Your financial gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering open doors...doors to a more fulfilling or less anxious life... doors to higher education and leadership development. Please prayerfully consider this gift this time of year which will be collected through Christmas Eve. You can make checks out to Westminster and mark JOY in the memo. Thank you!

## **IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

**Care List (rotating weekly):** Nell Seiberlich, Shirley Toomey, Kathy Waggener, Wade Waggener



**Members & Friends:** Kelly McCann, Gloria Stange, Bob Bush, Dale Rohde, Joel Jones, Joyce Schultze, Doug Rouse, Judy Braucht, Isabell Buffat (and Sam)