



 **WESTMINSTER**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 19, 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

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*, arr. C.E. Peery<sup>1</sup>

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE

2021 Confirmands

Leader: As we gather today and light this candle of love, we are reminded that God's work in our world embodies steadfast love. The Psalmist declares:

**People: "I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations. "**

Leader: We praise you, O God, for you give what is good. Jesus is our sign of this goodness and the fulfillment of what the Psalmist sings:

**People: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David: I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations."**

Leader: For you, O God, we wait with hope, peace, joy, and love.

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

## PRAYER OF ADORATION

### \*HYMN 105

*People, Look East*, Besancon<sup>2</sup>

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen. People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## CALL TO CONFESSION

David Hayes

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

David Hayes

**God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song, we still seek security in pride and power and possessions. Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you. We pass by those considered lowly in this world. We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend. Make us messengers of the peace you bring. As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, (continue with silent confession...) Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

David Hayes

**Leader:** Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**People:** **Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.**

## \*ACCLAMATION HYMN

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

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reese Manning

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

Reese Manning

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

## SOLO

*Savior of the Nations, Come, arr. C.E. Peery*<sup>4</sup>

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

## SERMON

*Mary's Song*

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (unison)

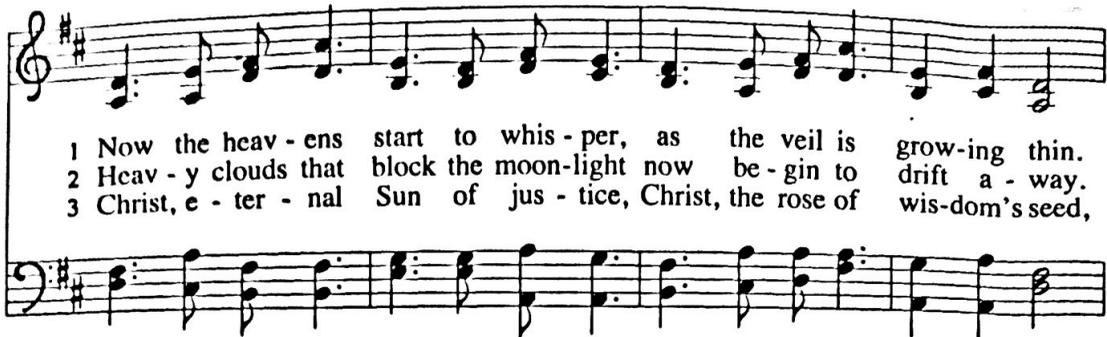
Mac Yackee

**I believe in Jesus' teachings. I believe we are called to serve others. God always has a plan even when I don't know what it is. He is always helping us down the road to heaven, and to swim across the river of sin. He gives us the strength to find the right path. I believe in Jesus Christ.**

*—written by the 2021 Confirmation Class*

### \*HYMN

*Now the Heavens Start to Whisper, Suo Gan<sup>5</sup>*



1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is grow - ing thin.  
2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to drift a - way.  
3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of wis - dom's seed,



Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten to the stir - ring, faint with-in:  
Dia - mond bril-liance through the dark-ness shines the hope of com-ing day.  
come to bless with fire and fra-grance hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need.



seed of prom-ise, deep-ly plant-ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem!  
Christ, the morn-ing star of splen-dor, gleams with-in a world grown dim.  
In the lone - ly, in the strang - er, in the out-cast, hid from view;



Like the soil be - neath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to wel-come him.  
Heav-en's em - ber fans to full-ness; hearts grow warm to wel-come him.  
Child who comes to grace the man-ger, teach our hearts to wel-come you.



## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND RECOGNITION OF CONFIRMANDS

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

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

\***HYMN 100**            *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout, Star of the County Down*<sup>7</sup>

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the one who waits. You fixed your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

**Refrain:** My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, For the dawn draws near, And the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me. And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for you yearn, You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

4 Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forbears heard is the promise that holds us bound, 'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Carol Trilogy, G.L. Rudolph*<sup>8</sup>

**Leaders Today:**

Pastor: Rev. Scott Anderson

Ushers: Doug & Juanita Halls

Liturgists: 2021 Confirmands: - David Hayes, Reese Manning, Mac Yackee

Minister of Music: Joe Chrisman

AV/Tech: John Tarr

Personnel:

Mary Ann Harr, harp



### **Worship Notes:**

*Please take a moment to fill out a friendship form located in your bulletin. The friendship form, poinsettia form, and offerings may be placed in the plates as you exit the sanctuary. Reminder that poinsettia forms are **due TODAY**. If you still need to fill one out, you may find the forms in the Narthex table by the coat rack along with pencils. Adult Sunday School is on hiatus for the holidays and will return January 9. Join us after worship for a special coffee hour reception welcoming the confirmands in Fellowship Hall downstairs.*

1 Music Setting by Charles E. Peery, ©2020 Birnamwood Publications. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

2 Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, alt. Music: French folk melody; harm. Martin Shaw, 1928. Text ©1960 David Higham Associates, Ltd. Music Harm. ©1928 Oxford University Press Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

3 Text and Music: Public Domain

4 Music Setting by Charles E. Peery, ©2020 Birnamwood Publications. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

5 Text: Mary Louise Bringle, ©2006 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Welsh melody, arr. hymnal version ©2020 Augsburg Fortress Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

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: Rory Cooney, 1990. Music: Irish melody; arr. Rory Cooney, 1990. Text and Music arr. ©1990 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

8 Music setting by Glenn L. Rudolph, ©2018 Birnamwood Publications. Used by Permission. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-703704.

### **WPC ANNOUNCEMENTS December 19**

#### **Christmas Eve at Westminster**

Join us on Christmas Eve at either 3:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. for a Candlelight worship service. The liturgy for both services, which will be a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, will be the same in both services. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at Kings College at Cambridge. This service was adapted from an order prepared by the Archbishop of Canterbury for a Christmas Eve service in 1880 by Eric Milner-White, a former army chaplain, who, at the age of 34, had just been appointed Dean of King's College. With the exception of 1930, the Cambridge Festival has been broadcast annually on the radio since 1928. Although the carols change each year, the lessons and the prayers used in the service have remained virtually unchanged since 1918. Like Westminster, many churches have adapted the Cambridge Festival service for use in worship during the Advent and Christmas seasons.



## **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!

## **Christmas Carol Sing on December 26**

You are invited to gather in the sanctuary at 9:15 a.m. on December 26 for a Christmas Carol Sing prior to the Sunday worship service at 9:45 a.m. Led by Joe Chrisman, Minister of Music, those who attend will be able to select the carols they wish to sing. For copyright reasons, the event will not be recorded or live streamed. Invite your friends and family to join you at Westminster on December 26!

## **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!

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

**Care List (rotating weekly):** Jack Browning, Sandy Butler, Lynn Chapman, Shirley Dieter

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

