

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

Let us take this time to quiet our hearts and minds and prepare for worship.

* Please stand if able Plain text = Leader **Bold text = People**

PRELUDE *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* Traditional English carol
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, Piano Arr. Don Wrytzen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Please stand) Elder

Greetings, God's beloved ones, God is with you this day.

Let us sing of God's steadfast love and tell of God's mercy.

Favored ones, God calls us to worship and to ponder.

Let us, with all the heavens and the earth, declare God's wonders.

Servants of God, the Holy One is present with us, now and always.

Let us tell of God's faithfulness to all generations.

Sisters and brothers, praise the Lord!

The Lord's name be praised!

* HYMN *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 9

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES The Griess family
(*Candle Lighters come forward during the final verse of the hymn*)

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL (Be seated) Elder

Let us pray,

God of surprises,

we pretend not to hear your messengers calling our names.

We look away, sure that there must be a mistake,

For we are afraid to believe that you would trust us

to bear you into the world.

We are just ordinary people trying to get by.

We wish you would choose someone else.

Have mercy on us, O Most High. Help us to believe with Mary.

Send your Spirit upon us, that we may indeed live for the sake of

Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.

(*A time for silent prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE Laura Sugg

Amen. Even now, God approaches us, mercy transcending anger,
hope overcoming despair, life triumphing over death.

This is good news, my friends; this is news of great joy for each of us.

**Enriched in every grace, blessed with joy and hope,
transformed by love, we will live as people of Advent.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

* SUNG RESPONSE (Stand as desired.) *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?* No. 11 v 3

A glorious crown you give me, A treasure safe on high,

That will not fail or leave me As earthly riches fly.

My heart shall bloom forever, For you with praises new.

And from Your name shall never Withhold the honor due.

HEARING THE WORD

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:26-38 Pg.53

Heaven and earth will pass away,

but the word of the Lord stands forever.

Thanks be to God.

from Isaiah 40:8, Mark 13:31

ANTHEM *Celtic Carol* Kirby Shaw

Laura Wray, Violin

TIME WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH (*As children & youth come forward, please sing.*)

This, this is where children belong, part of our family, part of our song.

Be with us, pray with us, help us grow strong, this is where children belong.

SERMON *Not from a Distance* Laura Sugg

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Elder

We affirm that Jesus was born of a woman as is every child,

yet born of God's power as was no other child.

Jesus was what we are.

He grew up in a family and a society

troubled by the common problems of the world.

His knowledge was limited by his time and place in history.

He felt deeply the joy of friendship and the hurt of being rejected.

Jesus prayed,

struggled with temptation,

knew anger, and was subject to suffering and death.

He was like us in every way except sin.

We recognize in Jesus what God created us to be.

He exposes our failure to live as he lived.

He demonstrates the new humanity

God promises to give us through him. Amen.

—from A Declaration of Faith, 1977

* HYMN (seated) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* No.48

* PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER Front of Hymnal Pg. 16

(*Pray, "Forgive us our sins..."*)

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This?* Based on English Melody, Greensleeves
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. By John Innes

* PRESENTATION OF OFFERING Tune: No. 23
**Let the nations shout and sing: glory to their Savior bring;
All below and all above sing your praise with joyous love.
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo; glo—ria in excelsis Deo.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Laura Sugg
**God of grace,
your eternal Word took flesh among us
when Mary placed her life at the service of your will.
By the power of your Spirit,
prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ again.
Keep us faithful in doing your will,
and steadfast to watch with hope,
that we may receive the coming of his kingdom,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all. Amen.**

* HYMN *Once in Royal David's City* No. 49

* CHARGE & BENECTION

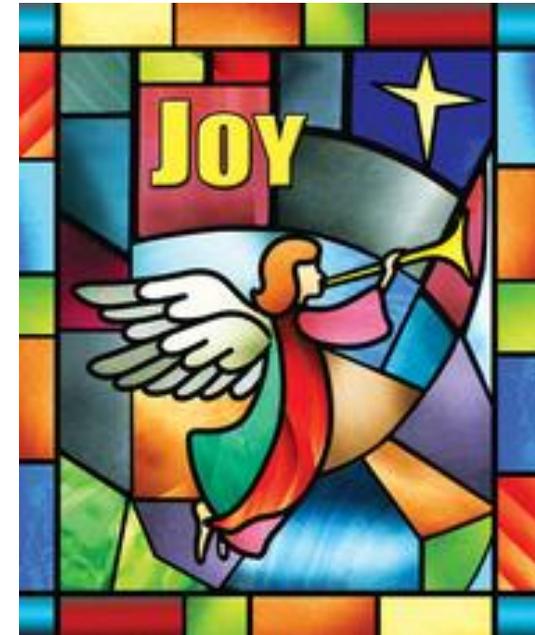
* SUNG CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: *How Majestic Is Your Name* STF 2023
**O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.
O Lord, we praise your name. O Lord, we magnify your name;
Prince of Peace, mighty God; O Lord God Almighty.**

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* Based on German Melody, In Dulci Jubilo
Organ/Piano Duet, Betty Niquette, piano Arr. John Innes

Please come through to Fellowship Hall for refreshments and conversation.

Many thanks to guest violinist, Laura Wray. We'll also hear her music on Christmas Eve!

Pulpit Elder: Marny Eulberg Deacon Reader: Janette Powers
Greeters: Jane Engle and Neil McKearnan Ushers: Maxine Foster & Karen Powers
Sound Engineer: Jim Niquette Time with Children & Youth: Betsy Smith
Flowers: members and friends of WPC



*WPC Mission Statement
To worship God through faith and action,
To nurture the spirit of Jesus Christ in each of us,
To be an extended family to all,
And to serve the community
through programs, education, and prayer.*

*Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017*

