

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*2nd Sunday of Advent*

December 9, 2018

Eleven O'Clock

Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast  
Liturgist: Bill Gast

## PRELUDE:

- I. *Of the Father's Love Begotten* - DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, arr. Margrethe Hokanson
- II. *Variations on "HYFRYDOL"* - arr. Benton Price

## CHIMING THE HOUR

**GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS** Psalm 118 says: **This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. I would like to especially welcome Rev. Dr. Julie Adkins to our pulpit. It is always a pleasure to have her here. Please remember to sign the attendance registers located in each pew. It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?**

**Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the response**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,  
Who has come to set the people free.**

People: **By the tender mercy of our God,  
The dawn from on high shall break upon us.**

Leader: **To give light to those who sin in darkness and the shadow of death,**

People: **and to guide our feet in the ways of peace.**

Leader: **Let us praise and worship God!**

**\*PRAISE CHORUS:** Hymn No. 106

*"Prepare the Way, O Zion"* vs 1

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

**Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!**

**Let every hill and valley a level way appear.**

**Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.**

**O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.**

**Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** God of grace, ever faithful in Your promises, the earth rejoices in hope of our Savior's coming and looks forward with longing to His return at the end of time. Prepare our hearts to receive Him when He comes, for He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

**Our first hymn today is**

**\*HYMN** No. 96

*"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"*

WINCHESTER NEW

## Hear our Call to Confession

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** Christ is coming into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that the world may be saved through Him. Trusting in the mercy that God promises us, let us together confess our sin and so prepare our hearts for Christ's coming. Let us pray:

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You are coming in power to bring all nations under Your rule. But who can endure the day of Your coming? We confess You as Lord, yet our paths remain crooked; our ways rough. Show us Your tender mercy; break in upon us from Your holy heights. Refine us with the power of Your Spirit, that we may live as a people of light, and walk in ways of peace, to Your glory and praise. (Please wait about 20 seconds, and then say,) Amen.

## Please join me in our Assurance of Pardon

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON** (Responsively)

Leader: **Once we were no people,**

People: **but now we are God's people.**

Leader: **Once we had not received mercy,**

People: **but now we have received mercy.**

Leader: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 71 "Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me" (Refrain only) FIRST SONG  
Surely it is God who saves me, I will trust and not be afraid.  
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,  
and God will be my Savior.

**You may be seated, Okoro, Ogbeyalu, Tiffany and Michelle, would you come up here to light the Advent Candle.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Okoro, Ogbeyalu, Tiffany and Michelle Kalu

(Congregation sings)

As we light the Advent Candle  
with the light of *Love* burning bright,  
faithfully we wait for His coming;  
faithfully it shines through the night.  
In our humble hearts a fire burns as well;  
hear the prayers these flames would tell.

**And now, Pat Nash will present a Minute for Mission**

**A MINUTE FOR MISSION**

Pat Nash

**Would our youth please come forward. (Skip this if there are no youth.)**

**TIME FOR YOUTH**

**Let us come to God in prayer**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** God of all peoples, Your servant John came baptizing and calling for repentance. Help us to hear His voice of judgment, that we may also rejoice in His word of promise, and be found pure and blameless in that glorious Day when Christ comes to rule the earth as Prince of Peace. Amen.

**Our Canticle is Luke 1:68-79, please read it responsively with me.**

**CANTICLE**

Luke 1:68-79

Leader: **Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.**

People: **He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.**

Leader: **Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our ancestor Abraham,**

People: **to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.**

Leader: **And You child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for You will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins.**

People: **By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from Malachi 3:1-4, you may follow along in your Pew Bibles on Pages 889-890**

**Our choir will now sing the Anthem: Comfort My People (The words are printed in your bulletins)**

**ANTHEM:** *Comfort My People* - Ian Calanhan

### COMFORT MY PEOPLE

Comfort, my people, and calm all your fear;  
the day of salvation is quickly drawing near.

The One you long to see  
will soon set you free.

O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Silence the thunder, silence sounds of war.

End all destruction and comfort those who mourn.

Your dream draws dream draws near,

your vision is vision is here.

O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*O come, Lord Jesus, come.*

Be light in the light in the darkness,; be truth for our truth for our lives.

Be strength for the helpless, the poor and lost who cry.

O saving saving voice,

O living living choice,

O come, Lord Jesus, come.

*O come, Lord Jesus, come*

**GOSPEL LESSON Our Gospel Lesson comes from Luke 3:1-6, you may follow along in your Pew Bibles on Page 60**

### SERMON

*“Getting Ready for God”*

Rev. Julie Adkins

**Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:**

**\*HYMN No. 106**

*“Prepare the Way, O Zion”*

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

**Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.**

**\*AFFIRMATION** The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

**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.**

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 "Glory Be to the Father" GLORIA PATRI

**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.**

**You may be seated. It is now time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?**

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY** Prayer concerns and celebrations

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **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**

**Julie, would you please announce that it is time for the offering?**

**OFFERTORY:** *Song of the Watchman* - Edward Grieg

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

**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.**

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** **Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Eternal God, as You led Your people in ages past, You direct our journey into the future. We give You thanks that You came to us in Jesus Christ, and we eagerly await His coming again that His rule may be complete and Your righteousness reign over all the world. Then we will feast at His royal banquet, and sing His praises with the choirs of heaven. By Your Spirit, open our eyes to the generosity of Your hand, and nurture our souls in all spiritual gifts. Fill us with gratitude overflowing that we may share life and love in praise to You, God of all the ages, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, by the power of Your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

**Our last Hymn today is:**

**\*HYMN** No. 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn" REJOICE, REJOICE

## **\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 79 "Light Dawns on a Weary World" vs 1 TEMPLE OF PEACE

Light dawns on a weary world when eyes begin to see all people's dignity.  
Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*POSTLUDE:** *Prepare the Way, O Zion* - MESSIAH, arr. David Paxton

**\*Those who are able may stand.**

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*Please join us for Coffee and Refreshments  
following the Worship Service*

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**CLOTHES FOR THE NEEDY**

Fall is here and our thoughts are with the homeless. We are collecting clothing for the needy. Especially needed are men's clothing, and socks in dark colors in all sizes. Please bring these items to the church and place them in the laundry basket located in the opportunity corner.  
Thank you, Faith in Action

**POINSETTIAS**

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board across from the kitchen for those wishing to purchase poinsettias for the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Price is \$10.00 each. Deadline for sign-up is TODAY, December 9th. Your poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve service on December 24; those not taken by December 30 will be trashed. Thank you, Pat Nash

**THE ANGEL TREE**

The Angel Tree this year will be the same as last year: that is, envelopes will be put out for you to put your contribution in toward a gift from the Presbyterian gift catalog. You may put the envelope in the collection plate when it is passed. If you want credit on your statement for it, you should include your name on the envelope. Or you may simply write a check and note "Angel Tree" in the memo space.

A reminder also that we will be collecting funds for the Christmas Joy Offering. More on this later.

Thank you very much for your continued generosity. The Faith in Action Committee.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

**MONDAY**

06:00 PM Cub Pack 789 Tigers

07:00 PM Boy Scouts 109

**TUESDAY**

10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group

**THURSDAY**

10:00 AM Art Group

**NEXT SUNDAY – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent**

09:15 AM Choir Practice

10:30 AM Bible Study

11:00 AM Worship Service with Christmas Hymns instead of a sermon

12:00 PM Cookie Exchange

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Millie Allen

Tom Price needs continued prayers  
Continued prayers for Bill and Nina Swaney  
Bill's father, Bill Gast  
Sue Fitch  
Continued prayers for Joan's nephew, Ryan McNeil  
Makia and Mireille Epie  
Joe and Lorrinda Alexander  
Joan's sister Shirley Gearheart and her kids  
Irmagene Mitchell  
Steve Rangel  
Bob Drury  
Bruce Allen  
Prayers for those who are unable to go to church, but would love to  
Joe's friend, Kevin Kimsy – he had a stroke and has other medical problems  
Pray for Russia – Christians can't share Christ in public  
Travel mercies for Gene Knox as he travels on his 89 day cruise  
Karla Krueger, she has M.S. and is very sick  
Lorrinda Alexander's hip replacement surgery is scheduled on December 19<sup>th</sup>  
Mireille's co-workers  
Fires in California  
Carolyn Douglas – recovering from knee surgery  
Travel mercies for Janet and Julie family  
Pat Nash has glaucoma  
Sonia Wills husband has to have heart surgery  
Jennifer Swan had kidney surgery, and is in a lot of pain  
Nancy's granddaughter is being deployed for 4 months to an unknown location

## **CELEBRATIONS**

Thanks to ALL who helped decorate the church, especially Pat Nash  
It's wonderful to have so many in church today