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REID MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

December 15, 2024

SOUNDING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign and pass the friendship pad to your neighbor.*

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mrs. Jenn Wilson  
Christian Enrichment

PRELUDE

Mr. Hank Monnig, Piano

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Marilyn and Bob Speaks

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

This is the season of holy waiting.

**We wait for the time when the desert will bloom abundantly.**

We watch for the day when all God's people will come together with singing.

**We wait while the dawning light appears on the horizon.**

Come let us walk in the light of God!

**Come let us worship the Lord!**

\*HYMN 109

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

MERLE'S TUNE

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Boyd Lien

Lord, we are in awe with Mary and Elizabeth as they contemplate the lives they are carrying, the children they will bring into the world. We want to exclaim with great earnestness, *my soul magnifies the Lord*, and yet we shy away from such outbursts of unfettered adoration, such moments of unwavering assurance. We want to be as confident as Mary, as hopeful as Elizabeth, as devoted as Joseph and Zechariah. Help us magnify you, Lord, in our souls, in our lives, in our words, in our love.

\*SILENT PRAYER

\*DECLARATION OF PARDON

In Luke, we find the Magnificat of Mary, whose faith proclaims: God's mercy is for those who stand in awe and wonder from generation to generation. God's strength has undone the proud and scattered the thoughts of their hearts; He has brought down the powerful from their thrones; He has lifted up the lowly and filled the hungry with good things.

**Such are the manifold blessings of the Lord, whose goodness and mercy in Christ will endure forever and ever. Amen.**

\*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.*

ANTHEM

*Gesu Bambino*

arr. Sharon Rogers  
(1929—2022)

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Joy Maple

\*HYMN 146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Casto-Waters

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-56

SERMON

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND LABORS

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

OFFERTORY

*Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming*

arr. Carl Johengen  
(b. 1962)

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those old have sung.  
It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love a right, she bore to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.*

*O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.*

*True man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our ev'ry load.*

\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

*Doxology*

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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 DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Lien

**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.**

\*HYMN 134

*Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*CHORAL BENEDICTION

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

\*All who are able please stand

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<sup>1</sup> inspired by Isaiah 35:1-10, Jane Stranz

# Participating in Worship



## *Preacher*

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

## *Worship Leaders*

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien

Ms. Joy Maple

## *Musicians*

Dr. Wayne Lord

Mr. Hank Monnig

Chancel Choir

Master's Ringers

## *Acolyte*

Hadley Allgood

## *Friendship Pad Pick-up*

Marilyn Speaks

## *Ushers*

Marshall Brown

Harry Revell

Monty Carlton

Catharine Lemmon

Marc Wilson

Marc Wilson, III

## ADVENT

One of the fondest Advent traditions for both congregations and families is the lighting of Advent candles. The tradition reaches back to pre-Christian northern Europeans. During the darkest days of winter, they lit as many as twenty-four candles on an evergreen-covered wheel or wreath. By lighting a candle daily, they marked time, anticipating the return of the sun's light and warmth. By the 1500s, both Lutherans and Catholics adapted the Advent Wreath as a devotional way to prepare for the coming of Christ, the Light of the World.

The symbols of the Advent Wreath are interpreted in many ways. The circle of evergreens reminds Christians of the eternal and ever-renewing promises of Christ. The lighting of candles, spanning the season, acknowledges the deepening of our preparation and the increasing light that bursts forth at Christmas.

The colors of the candles also vary. Often the candles are purple or blue, noting the season's expectations of royalty, liberation, penitence, redemption, and hope. For the third Sunday of Advent, occasionally a pink candle is lit. This recognizes a shift of Advent themes in the Bible. The first two Sundays focus on the Bible's prophetic vision of Christ's future and final return; on the third and fourth Sunday, the readings focus on the coming of Jesus, the Christ. The third Sunday has been identified in some traditions as "Gaudette," meaning rejoice! The fourth Sunday traditionally recounts God's call to Mary and her faithful response or a reading from the Gospel of John on the love of God. Finally, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, a center white candle is lit. The light of Christ is fully present. Jesus is born.



**Hearing assistance.** Hearing aid wearers with a "T" (telecoil) setting can now hear the service broadcast directly through their hearing aids. Others desiring hearing assistance may check out a portable receiver / headset.