



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

December 8, 2024

SOUNDING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Please sign and pass the friendship pad to your neighbor.

PRELUDE

Wexford Carol

Mary McDonald
(b. 1956)

INTROIT

A Processional for Advent

Rachel Aarons

***Come, thou redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin birth:
Let every age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of all.***

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING

Mrs. Shawntel Parker

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹

The God who speaks comfort to us calls us here.

The God who addresses us with tenderness meets us here.

The God who guides us with gentleness cares for us here.

We come to prepare a way for the Lord.

We come to ready ourselves for the transformation of our lives.

For the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it. Let us worship the Lord!

*HYMN 106

Prepare the Way, O Zion

BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Lord, we have heard John's call to repentance, to come to the river, to prepare the way. We have come to know his words by heart but we are not always ready to ask forgiveness, we are not always willing to make our paths straight. We are comfortable with our faults and afraid of changing our ways, because it may change the way we live. The season of Advent challenges us, Lord, to anticipate your coming into the world, but also to let ourselves be transformed by your coming. Help us to welcome you. Help us to prepare the way for others as well as ourselves in this season of hope.

*SILENT PRAYER

*DECLARATION OF PARDON

John declares, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire," and so he proclaimed the good news to people. We have heard this call to come unto the Lord, and we have received the gift of grace: the forgiveness of sins and the life everlasting.

Thanks be to God! 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.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Ms. Joy Maple

*HYMN 93

Lift Up Your Heads

TRURO

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Dr. Casto-Waters

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:2b-18

SERMON

ANTHEM

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

Mary Louise Bringle
(b. 1953)

*Now the heavens start to whisper as the veil is growing thin.
Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within:
Seed of promise, deeply planted, Christ to spring from Jesse's stem!
Like the soil beneath the frost-line, hearts grow soft to welcome him.*

*Heavy clouds that block the moonlight now begin to drift away.
Diamond brilliance through the darkness shines the hope of coming day.
Christ, the morning star of splendor, gleams within a world grown dim.
Heaven's ember fans to fullness; hearts to grow warm to welcome him.*

*Christ, eternal sun of justice, Christ, the rose of wisdom's seed,
Come to bless with fire and fragrance, hours of yearning, hurt, and need.
In the lonely, in the stranger, in the outcast hid from view:
Child who comes to grace the manger, teach our hearts to welcome you.*

OFFERING OF OUR LIVES AND LABORS

Rev. Boyd Lien

OFFERTORY

See, Amid the Winter's Snow

Mary McDonald
(b. 1956)

*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. Ellsworth-Moran

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 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

*All who are able please stand

Music—Music is reprinted by permission through OneLicense.net #A-721337

¹ based on Isaiah 40:1-11. Moira Laidlaw

Participating in Worship



Preacher

Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters

Worship Leaders

Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran

Rev. Boyd Lien

Ms. Joy Maple

Musicians

Dr. Wayne Lord

Chancel Choir

Acolyte

Hamp Sanders

Friendship Pad Pick-up

Linda McCall

Ushers

Hubert Cook

Donna Steiner

Ed Moody, III

Bennett Yort

Ben Dusenbury

Jones Miller

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.