



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

11:15a Eric & Jordan O'Toole, Grayson, Connor, and Caroline

Prelude *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. Miller

* Call to Worship **Isaiah 35:1-10**

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

People: **The people of God shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.**

Leader: The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing.

People: **Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

* Hymn #88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

* Prayer of Confession

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
 You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still,
 in our foolishness, we turn to our own way.
 We hide our eyes from your presence.
 We follow the way of happiness that the world describes
 and miss the joy abundant you promise.
 We do not listen to your word.
 We are lifeless when we ought to dance
 and speechless when we ought to sing.
 Forgive us, O Lord.
 Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
 strengthen our weak hands,
 and make firm our feeble knees
 as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.**

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
 People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

* Gloria Patri #581 **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.**

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer

Offering *Personent Hodie & Huron Carol* Talbott

Offertory *Personent Hodie & Huron Carol* Talbott

* Doxology #606 **OLD HUNDRETH**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God,
 all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly
 host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

* Prayer of Dedication

Hearing **God's Word**

I HEARD IT FROM THE SHEPHERDS

by RG Huff and Vicki Hancock Wright

Presented by the Junior and Senior Choristers

Hodie! Hodie! soloists: *Madeline Weaver, Catherine McNeely,
 Manning Dailey, Reynolds Paradise*

Prophets, Prophets

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child soloists: *Mary Evans Howayeck, Maisie Lucas,
 Madeline Hardaway*

Cradle Dance soloist: *Caroline Riley*

I Heard It from the Shepherds

Following the Star to Bethlehem soloists: *James Knauer,
 Preston Lancaster, Ellis Bryan*

Responding to **God's Word**

* Hymn #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

* Charge & Benediction

* Postlude *Noël* Daquin

**All who are able may stand*

The Senior Choristers

*Ellis Bryan
 Anna Clark Cameron
 Vivienne Cardell
 Gretchen Cleveland
 Harrison Dillard
 Thomas Dillard
 Mary Eliza Duncan
 Madeline Hardaway
 Bobby Hartman
 Mary Evans Howayeck
 Catherine Huffman
 Salters Kelley
 James Knauer
 Preston Lancaster
 Maisie Lucas
 Catherine McNeely*

*Emily Nuttall
 Mary Alice Price
 Sawyer Rentz
 Ellen Reynolds
 Capitola Riley
 Caroline Riley
 Lucy Stephens
 Charlotte Swann
 Hayden Taylor
 Lillian Threatt
 Miles Threatt
 Thomas Waldrep
 Madeline Weaver
 Elizabeth Workman
 Mary Wayne Workman*

The Junior Choristers

*Camille Benson
 Berkeley Blumer
 Virginia Boan
 Elizabeth Brinkley
 Trixie Clark
 Mary Earle Cleveland
 Manning Dailey
 Teddy Duncan
 Henry Eckard
 Reynolds Freeman
 Gray Gault
 Loftin Gilreath
 Whitley Hardaway
 Violet Howayeck
 Ella Huffman
 Wilder Hutcheson*

*Hattie Johnson
 Mary Ellis Knapp
 Mary Mac Murphy
 Mae Murphy
 Reynolds Paradise
 Thomas Price
 Luke Pruitt
 Mary Catherine Razor
 Quinn Ray
 Julia Roach
 Charlie Stephens
 Sadie Taylor
 Lisette Weaver
 Anderson Williams
 Mary Ellen Yeargin*

Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*
 Rosemary Hughes, *pianist and flutist*
 Middler and Senior High Youth Choirs
 Shawn Salley, *Interim Youth Choir Director*
 Katie Knauer, *Children's Choir Coordinator*
 Hunter Smith, *Senior Choristers Interim Director*
 Martha Gower, *Choristers Accompanist*

Leading Worship **this Morning**

Lauren Slingerland (9a), *preaching*
 Ben Dorr (9a & 11:15a), *liturgist*
 Tim Reed (9a), *lay reader*
 Todd Monsell, *organist and pianist*
 Rosemary Hughes (9a), *soloist*
 Clay Smoak (9a), Brad Hawkins (11:15a), *head ushers*
 Keith Stevenson, Emily Busby, LeAnne White,
 Russ Williams, Toni Paylor (9a), *greeters*
 Ross Glidewell, Jara Jones, Meg McKnight,
 Laura Cox, Hastings Blumer (11:15a), *greeters*

Worship Notes

NURSERY

Childcare is available for infants through 4K. Our nurturing staff of experienced caregivers and parent volunteers offers a welcoming environment for children. The Nursery is located on the mezzanine level. The entrance is at Westminster Drive, at the columbarium or near the Westminster Weekday School offices.

WORSHIP BAGS

Each Sunday we offer worship bags in the atrium for children. The worship bags are designed to include reusable items that engage children in open ended play during worship. While children attend worship with their families, they can participate in worship and play to make foundational layers of meaning for faith. Please return the zipper bag and its contents each Sunday. This shift to reusable items demonstrates how we value hospitality and care for creation.

CONNECT WITH WESTMINSTER

Looking for ways to be involved? Please complete a Connection Card from the Ritual of Friendship pad and place it in the offering plate to express interest or sign up for an opportunity.

**ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET
 AND INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

Prepare your mind and heart for the coming of the Christ child while exploring Christmas traditions and fair trade gifts in the Alternative Gift Market and International Christmas Festival. On December 11, there will be a small-scale gift market in the Sanctuary Atrium following the 11:15a worship service. On December 18, we'll gather in the Sanctuary Atrium during the Sunday School hour to explore traditions and artisan crafts from around the world. There are many ways to get involved including hosting a country table, running check out, and providing hospitality. Find out more information by contacting Lauren Slingerland at lslingerland@wpc-online.org.

In Memoriam

Ryan Montgomery
 (11/21/1974 - 12/4/2022)

*"I am the resurrection and the life."
 - John 11:25*

OPEN HEARTS • Giving@WPC

2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

As of Monday, December 5, we have received \$2,002,372 in pledges toward our 2023 pledge goal of \$2,600,000. For your convenience, you may pledge via our website at wpc-online.org/pledge-today, you may mail in your pledge, or send your pledge by email to the Church Financial Secretary, Pam Schook, at pschook@wpc-online.org.

RETIREMENT GIVING

Make Qualified Distributions from your IRAs: Westminster members age 70.5 and older can support the church with a gift from their Individual Retirement Account. Qualified charitable distributions from IRAs may offer tax advantages while benefiting WPC's local and global ministries. Contact the church office for more information.

Opportunities@WPC

MEN OF WESTMINSTER
UPCOMING EVENTS

December Gathering -
Thursday, December 15

The Men of Westminster will have their monthly gathering at the Blockhouse Restaurant (1619 Augusta Rd). All men of the church are invited.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER
UPCOMING EVENTS

Women of Westminster Retreat -
February 24 - 26, 2023
at Montreat Conference Center

The Women of Westminster Retreat is a time to unwind, experience peace and relax. The immediate calm and serenity as you come into Montreat is apparent. It's truly beautiful. At the Westminster Women's Retreat, our hope is that you experience God in a new and powerful way; learn something new about yourself through the messages brought to us by our speaker, Reverend Anne Apple; meet new friends; grow relationships; and have a getaway weekend for yourself. Please join us for a weekend of devotions, fellowship, music and fun. Sign up now through January 20, 2023 via the WPC homepage. Single rooms are first come, first serve and fill up! Join up with a friend(s) to get a double or quad room! Contact the church office or Coleman Dixon, Moderator, with any questions.

Advent & Christmas at Westminster

December 11	Third Sunday of Advent Children's Musical 11:15a in the Sanctuary
December 18	Fourth Sunday of Advent The 62nd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols 9 & 11:15a in the Sanctuary The International Christmas Festival 10a (the Sunday School hour)
December 24	Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 4p and 6p in the Sanctuary (overflow in the Sanctuary Atrium)
December 25	One Worship Service 11:15a in the Sanctuary reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium
January 1	One Worship Service 11:15a in the Sanctuary reception following service in Sanctuary Atrium

Heritage Lecture Speaker@WPC

Announcing the 2022 Heritage Lecturer: Kate Bowler. Join us on Thursday, January 19 at 7p. Bowler is the author of *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel, Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I've Loved, No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear), Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection, and The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* (forthcoming). Dr. Bowler will speak in the Sanctuary from 7p-8:30p. Further details forthcoming.

HIKING GROUP

The Hiking Group will meet again on Friday, December 16, to hike on Round Top Mountain Passage. Contact Hiking Group Leader: Durden Collins (durden.collins@gmail.com) if interested.

WOMEN OF WESTMINSTER CIRCLES

- Tuesday, December 13
- Circle 3, at the home of Nancy White (35 Stillwood Dr.) at 12:30p. Circle Chair: Dee Malone (dee05m@gmail.com).
- Wednesday, December 14
- Circle 6, at the home of Deborah Gibson (109 Cureton St.) at 9a. Sherry Tate (sherrytate63@gmail.com) and Liz Einstein (liz.ard.einstein@gmail.com) co-chairs.

THE HARBINGER
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2310 Augusta Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29605
(864) 232-2424
www.wpc-online.org

THE HARBINGER: (USPS No. 764160)
Published weekly by the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2310 Augusta Street, Greenville SC 29605. Periodical postage paid at Greenville SC 29605.

Church Staff

Ben Dorr
Pastor & Head of Staff
bdorr@wpc-online.org

Leigh Stuckey
Executive Associate Pastor
lstuckey@wpc-online.org

Mary Kathleen Duncan
Associate Pastor
mkduncan@wpc-online.org

Lauren Slingerland
Associate Pastor
lslingerland@wpc-online.org

Julia Watkins
Associate Pastor
jwatkins@wpc-online.org

Amos Workman
Parish Associate
aworkman@wpc-online.org

Rosemary Hughes
Interim Director of Music
rhughes@wpc-online.org

Kathryn Knauer
Children's Choir Coordinator
kknauer@wpc-online.org

Todd Monsell
Organist
tmonsell@wpc-online.org

Cara Puntch
Weekday School Director
cpuntch@wpc-online.org

Cynthia Ellison
Financial Secretary
cellison@wpc-online.org

Michelle Little
Office Manager
michelle@wpc-online.org

Wendy Bagley
Secretary
wendy@wpc-online.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December 11 - 18, 2022

Sunday, December 11

- Third Sunday of Advent
- 7:30a WestConnect - Philip Land Group
 - 9:00 Worship Service
Witness & Service Committee Meeting
 - 10:00 Sunday School
 - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 - 11:15 Worship Service
 - 12:30p Stated Session Meeting
 - 12:45 Connections Group Meeting
 - 4:30 Youth Movie Night at Camelot Cinemas

Monday, December 12

- 8:00p Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday, December 13

- 12:00p Al-Anon Group Meeting
- 12:30 Circle #3 Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

- 9:30a Circle #6 Meeting
- 2:30p It's Elementary
- 4:30 It's Elementary Volunteer Event
- 7:00 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

- 9:30a Weekday School Chapel (3K)
- 9:45 Weekday School Chapel (5K)
- 10:00 Weekday School Chapel (4K)
Thursday Bible Study
- 6:00p Men of Westminster Event
- 8:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Friday, December 16

- 8:30a Hiking Group

Sunday, December 18

- Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 9:00a Worship Service
Creation Stewardship Meeting
 - 10:00 Sunday School
 - 10:55 Sunday Session Meeting
 - 11:15 Worship Service
 - 5:00p Middler Christmas Parties
 - 6:00 Senior Highs at Hanor's

3RD ANNUAL CHURCHWIDE CHILI COOK-OFF!

Mark your calendars for the churchwide chili cook-off on January 22 after worship in the Fellowship Hall with 11 teams fighting for the top Chili spot, come taste all of the chili and vote for your favorites from traditional beef recipes, to vegetarian options, to chicken chili and also spicy! Sign up online now for taste cards, raffle tickets for great prizes and a potato bar with salad lunch.

the
HARBINGER
open minds open hearts

VOLUME LXXV | December 11, 2022 | No. 32

From the Pews, Donn James

The scripture lesson today comes from the first chapter of Luke, verses 46-55. These verses are commonly called *Mary's Song* or *The Magnificat*. After the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary telling her she will bear the Son of God, Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist. Elizabeth praises Mary for her great faith and Mary responds with what is now called the Magnificat.

Mary has been chosen to do a great thing. As she praises God, acknowledging his great acts, her humble and lowly status, her many blessings, I am reminded that we have all been chosen as children of God and followers of Jesus Christ. I am also reminded of two of my favorite quotes credited to Mother Teresa: "I cannot do great things, but I can do small things with great love." And, "I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

In this Advent season, let us remember the blessings that we have been given; and the grace freely given to us. With this, let us do small things with great love - and cast a stone or two.



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Les & Susan Hicken

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose is Growing* Leavitt

* Call to Worship Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

**People: The people of God shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.**

Leader: The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing.

**People: Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

* Prayer of Confession

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
 You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still,
 in our foolishness, we turn to our own way.**

**We hide our eyes from your presence.
 We follow the way of happiness that the world describes
 and miss the joy abundant you promise.**

**We do not listen to your word.
 We are lifeless when we ought to dance
 and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
 Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
 strengthen our weak hands,
 and make firm our feeble knees**

as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri #581

**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.**



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Les & Susan Hicken

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose is Growing* Leavitt

* Call to Worship Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

**People: The people of God shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.**

Leader: The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing.

**People: Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

* Prayer of Confession

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
 You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still,
 in our foolishness, we turn to our own way.**

**We hide our eyes from your presence.
 We follow the way of happiness that the world describes
 and miss the joy abundant you promise.**

**We do not listen to your word.
 We are lifeless when we ought to dance
 and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
 Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
 strengthen our weak hands,
 and make firm our feeble knees**

as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri #581

**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.**



Third Sunday of Advent

Preparation for **Worship**

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings. This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Anne Weems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

Gathering and Preparing for **God's Word**

Welcome and Announcements

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a Les & Susan Hicken

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose is Growing* Leavitt

* Call to Worship Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
 the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
 like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
 and rejoice with joy and shouting.

**People: The people of God shall see the glory of the Lord,
 the majesty of our God.**

Leader: The ransomed of the Lord shall return,
 and come to Zion with singing.

**People: Everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
 they shall obtain joy and gladness,
 and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

All: Let us worship God!

* Hymn #88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel VENI EMMANUEL

* Prayer of Confession

**God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace.
 You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still,
 in our foolishness, we turn to our own way.**

**We hide our eyes from your presence.
 We follow the way of happiness that the world describes
 and miss the joy abundant you promise.**

**We do not listen to your word.
 We are lifeless when we ought to dance
 and speechless when we ought to sing.**

**Forgive us, O Lord.
 Speak peace to our fearful hearts,
 strengthen our weak hands,
 and make firm our feeble knees**

as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

* Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

* Gloria Patri #581

**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.**

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 1:46b-55* p. 832

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 11:2-11* p. 792

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Unexpected Joy"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, full God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

Offering

Anthem Gesu Bambino Yon

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn No. 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Noël* Daquin

**All who are able may stand*

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 1:46b-55* p. 832

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 11:2-11* p. 792

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Unexpected Joy"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, full God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

Offering

Anthem Gesu Bambino Yon

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn No. 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Noël* Daquin

**All who are able may stand*

Hearing **God's Word**

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Lesson, *Luke 1:46b-55* p. 832

Second Scripture Lesson, *Matthew 11:2-11* p. 792

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon "Unexpected Joy"

Responding to **God's Word**

* Affirmation of Faith *A Brief Statement of Faith*

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, full God. We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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.

Offering

Anthem Gesu Bambino Yon

* Doxology (Hymnal, No. 606)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

* Hymn No. 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude *Noël* Daquin

**All who are able may stand*