

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH GATHERS ...

*When the prelude begins let us quietly prepare for the Worship of God.*

**PRELUDE** Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her Georg Böhm  
*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*

**OPPORTUNITIES AND CONCERNS OF THE CONGREGATION**

**LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

(9:00) The Crawford Family  
(11:00) Harrison and Mackay Family

**CALL TO WORSHIP** from Psalm 80

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**People: Stir up your might and come to save us!**

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

**People: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

TO PRAISE AND CONFESS ...

**\*HYMN NO. 13** (blue hymnal) Prepare the Way *Bereden väg för Herran*  
(Verses 1 and 2)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Jesus Christ, light of the world, bearer of eternal dawn, we know well the darkness you have come to banish. Groping in the confusion of a starless night, we confess our isolation, aimlessness and fear of death. We confess the hostility we permit and the suffering we inflict. We confess our known and unknown prejudices and our failures to practice mercy. We acknowledge our desperate need of you. By your presence, dawn on our darkened day. By your steadfast love, draw us into the light of your new way.

**\*KYRIE ELEISON** Healey Willan  
*(Congregation singing – music is found on the inside cover of the red hymnal)*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

(First part: women; second: men; third: all)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

**\*RESPONSE** Refrain from Hymn No. 116 (red hymnal) Angels We Have Heard on High *Gloria*  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD AND RESPOND ...

**PROPHECY** Micah 5:2-5a

**A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN** (11:00) Lisa Trofatter

Children age 4 through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade are invited to go downstairs and participate in Children's  
Worship. A nursery is available during the entire service for infants through age 3.

**GOSPEL** Luke 1:39-55

Laura Stockdale, Liturgist (9:00)

Lisa Ellis, Liturgist (11:00)

**SERMON** "And Mary Said..." Rev. John Linton Muntz

*"Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with  
me according to your word..." – Luke 1:38*

**\*HYMN** My Soul Proclaims with Wonder *Hunt*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (Unison)

God created the heavens and the earth and made human beings in God's image, charging them to care for all that lives. God made men and women to live in community, responding to their Creator with grateful obedience. God was incarnate in Jesus Christ, who announced good news to the poor, proclaimed release for prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, let broken victims go free, and proclaimed the year of the Lord's favor. Jesus came to seek and save the lost; in his life and death for others, God's redeeming love for all was made visible, and in the resurrection of Jesus Christ there is assurance of God's victory over sin and death and the promise of God's continuing presence in the world.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE ...** The Lord's Prayer

(During the Prayers of the People there will be a time of silence. You are invited to use this time for personal reflection, confession, thanksgiving, and prayer.)

**THE OFFERING**

*Please sign and pass the Friendship Register found on the pew nearest the center aisle.*

*If you would like to receive our newsletter or more information about the church, include your address, phone number and email address. Though many of us contribute electronically or by a check in the mail, your holding and passing the offering plate is an act of blessing and dedication to our life together in Jesus Christ.*

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

(9:00) Dixit Maria ad Gabriel Hans Leo Hassler  
Dixit Maria ad Gabriel: Ecce ancilla Domini, fiat mihi, secundum verbum tuum.

*And Mary said unto Gabriel: Behold the handmaid of the Lord, so it shall be, according to Thy word.*

Luke 1:38

Meredith Mackay, Soprano  
Jennifer Shilling, Alto  
John Harrison, Tenor  
Terrance McCracken, Baritone

(11:00) When Christ Was Born Reginald Jacques  
When Christ was born of Mary free, In Bethlem in that fair city, Angels sung e'er with mirth and glee, *In excelsis gloria.*

Herdmen beheld these angels bright— To them appeared with great light, And said, 'God's Son is born this night': (Refrain)

This King is come to save his kind, In the scripture as we find; Therefore this song have we in mind: (Refrain)

Then, dear Lord, for thy great grace, Grant us the bliss to see thy face, Where we may sing to thy solace. (Refrain)

Anonymous, 15th century  
*Tallis' Canon*

**\*AT THE PRESENTATION** Doxology No. 591 (blue hymnal)  
(Sung to the tune of Hymn No. 542 (blue hymnal))

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all people here below; Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**TO GO FORTH AND SERVE ...**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

\*Hymn No. 13 Prepare the Way Bereden väg för Herran  
(Verse 3)

**\*POSTLUDE** Partita XI (from the chorale partita on *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele*) Georg Böhm  
*O My Soul, Be Glad and Joyful*

\*Indicates standing.

**NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR TODAY**

**WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP** here today.

**PASTORAL CARE ELDERS FOR THE WEEK:** Ellen Anderson and Tim Ryan  
**SERVING TODAY**

**ACOLYTES** (11:00): Max Yates and Emma Adamcik

**GREETERS** (11:00): John and Kathy Shilling

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

(9:00) Childcare through age 5

(11:00) Nursery Staff

**MINISTRY OF MUSIC:** (11:00) Chancel Choir

**SENIOR USHER:** Bill Wiesehuegel

**USHERS:**

(9:00) Ed Mathews and Cile Mathews

(11:00) Betty McKeehan, Leonard McKeehan, Gordon Greeson, Robin Greeson, Bob Murrian

**OUR THANKS** to Meredith Mackay, Jennifer Shilling, John Harrison, and Terrance McCracken for their enrichment of our worship at the early service.

**THIS MORNING'S PRELUDE AND POSTLUDE** are by the inventive North German organist and composer Georg Böhm. He was organist at St. John's Church in Lüneburg and was an important mentor for the teenage J. S. Bach during the latter's student years in that city. The prelude shows Böhm's contrapuntal skill and his imaginative approach to setting the chorale melody, while the robust postlude exhibits his boldness and flair.

**Worship at Westminster**

Monday, December 24 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship (Nursery available)  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship  
Sunday, December 30 11:00 a.m. We all worship together at 11:00 a.m.  
Sunday School resumes on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**FOYER GROUPS** shuffle in December to prepare new groups to convene in January. Please check your *Abbey* for details, and contact Sue Murrian for more information or to join a group or to drop out of the January rotation.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE** will be open December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Our regular schedule resumes on Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** will be collected through Sunday, December 30. Fifty percent of this offering supports racial ethnic education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, helping students develop their gifts and find their calling. The other fifty percent of the offering helps families of active and retired church workers meet unexpected needs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please see today's bulletin insert for more information.

### Adult Sunday School

#### Parenting (Library)

January 6 - February 10

*Sabbath in the Suburbs* by MaryAnn McKibben Dana

This "is compelling reading for anyone, but will particularly resonate with working parents who are trying to balance the demands of young children, jobs, and the other obligations that creep into our calendars. It is an excellent resource for families who want to live in a more mindful way savoring our children's formative years rather than enduring them." Linda Judge-McRae and Ashley Porter will facilitate the class. Books are available in the church office at a cost of \$12.00.

#### Faith and Life (McKinnon Room)

January 6 - April 21

*Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* by Karen Armstrong

This is a thought-provoking book about making the world a more compassionate place. "The twelve steps begin with 'Learn about Compassion' and close with 'Love your Enemies'". In between, the author takes up self-love, mindfulness, suffering, etc. Larry Ridley and Hope Gosselin will facilitate the class. Books are available in the office at a cost of \$12.00.

#### Current Topics (Fellowship Hall)

January 6 - February 10

"Living the Questions 2", a DVD series, "is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers." Featuring 30 acclaimed scholars and theologians such as Marcus Borg, Walter Brueggemann, Diana Butler Bass, and John Shelby Spong, this series is full of thought-provoking sessions such as "Taking the Bible Seriously", "A Passion for Christ: Paul", and "Embracing Mystery". The class will be led by Tim Crais, Paula Smartt, John Smartt, and Laura Barron. Study guides will be made available in the office at no charge or via email. However, you can still join the class at any point without preparation and enjoy the DVDs and participating in the discussion.

#### Bible Study (Prayer Room)

January 6 - February 10

We will continue the study of the missionary journeys in the book of Luke. Ellen Anderson and Scott Brunger will lead this class. Bring your Bible and join the group as we delve into the scriptures.

**FINAL 2012 OFFERINGS:** All contributions received by 10:00 a.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup> will be included in your 2012 contribution statement.

#### THE SESSION

**Class of 2013:** Ruthie Carey, Kristi Gordon, Buz Johnson, Tim Ryan, John Salsbery, Nathan Seidner (Youth Elder).

**Class of 2014:** Terry Crow, Dave Dupper, Angela Partelow, Cindy Spangler, Bill Wiesehuegel

**Class of 2015:** Ellen Anderson, Jean Bonnyman, Hap McSween, Rick Oakes, Jack Woodall

#### TRUSTEES

**Class of 2013:** Roy Hawk, **Class of 2014:** Norman McRae, **Class of 2015:** Joe Ben Turner