

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADVENT I

A SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

NOVEMBER 27, 2022 10:30AM

Grace Notes

Welcome to WHPC! If you are visiting us today, we are so glad you joined us for worship. If you have not already, please take a moment to record your contact information on the visitor card you will find in the pew and drop it in the offering box or hand it to a greeter at the door. We are always glad to share the great things happening at WHPC!

If you are looking for a new church home and would like to join in fellowship with Westover Hills, please join us in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) and we will gladly share more about life at WHPC or, if you are ready, receive you into membership.

Childcare is available in the nursery. Please check with a greeter.

WESTOVER HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Indicates the congregation is invited to stand.* **Bold text indicates unison readings.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S INVITATION

GATHERING MUSIC

David Austin, Music Director

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Dr. Robert Wm Lowry, Pastor

OPENING PRAYER

Holy Light, God of faithful witnesses, please shine in our hearts with all the joys of your coming Son.

May we be delivered from trusting the artificial lights of our generation, and from the ephemeral, decorative lights of this season.

Bring us into the open place where, dazed yet not afraid, we may praise you with wonder and adore you with profound joyfulness. Through Jesus of Nazareth, our Christ and Saviour. Amen.

CHORAL INTROIT

"The Call"

George Herbert, Text

Ralph Vaughan Williams, Music

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a way as gives us breath, such a truth as ends all strife, such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a light as shows a feast, such a feast as mends in length, such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a joy as none can move, such a love as none can part, such a heart as joys in love.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joy and Bobby Thomas

Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken their longings.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every hurt to be healed.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every tear to be dried.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We long for every injustice to be made right.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

We celebrate God's promises and long for those yet to unfold.

We wait in hope for the Lord.

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us that even in the midst of darkness, the light of hope shines. Jesus Christ is the promised One of God, the light of the world. May this light of hope illuminate our hearts throughout this Advent season.

The candle is lit.

Grace Notes

This 20th century hymn written to a traditional French folk melody expresses the cosmic implications of the coming of Christ. Each verse builds on the previous one in telling the unfolding story of creation.

The Prayer of Confession evokes imagery and language associated with Advent and the coming of Christ and with it gives voice to our need for reconciliation and renewal.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, fill our hearts this day with the thrill of hope that is found in each of your promises. Like the people of old, we who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Ignite our faith and light our path. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

RESPONSE TO CANDLE LIGHTING "People Look East"

1 People, look east. The time is near of the crown-ing of the year. Make your house
Peo-ple, look
fair as you are a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
east and sing to - day:
Peo-ple, look east:
Love, the Guest, is on the way.
Peo-ple look east (Love is on the way.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ray Stephens

Because it is so hard to wait, it is not easy to live through Advent's days.

But watch what God does during this time. God waits for us to turn from our old ways to find the right paths; God waits for us to admit what we have done, and failed to do, so we might be forgiven and graced with new life.

Let us approach the One who waits— for us!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION. (in unison)

It is never easy for us to confess our sins, Waiting God.

There are the hurts we have caused to our families and friends, which we would like to forget. There are those we believe are impossible to love, and so we don't try. There are people who live on the edge of our society, and we ignore their cries for help.

Forgive us, God who comes near to us. When we have lost our way, show us yours. Lead us in humility down the streets of your kingdom.

Teach us your truth, so we might be able to keep your Word, Revealed to us in Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Silent Confession

Grace Notes

During the season of Advent, our refrain in response to God's forgiveness is the refrain of the angels.

Respectful of individual preferences concerning contact, please extend either a hand or a gesture of peace to your neighbors.

The word **Chrismon** is a portmanteau of the words Christ and monogram. The traditional IHS, the first three Greek letters in the name Jesus, are frequently used to symbolize the name and person of Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

...in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo -

- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The refrain is marked with a 'Refrain' label. The lyrics are: 'Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands.

†THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ which passes all understanding be with you all.

And also with you.

†THE HANGING OF THE CHRISMONS

As the peace is passed, please take the Chrismons in your pew and hang them on the Chrismon Tree in the chancel. Each Chrismon has a symbolic meaning in the life of the church.

The tradition of the Chrismon Tree is a newer tradition in the life of the church. The first modern Chrismon Tree was in a Lutheran church in Danville, VA in 1957. The handmade ornaments each held symbolic meaning and the patterns were made available to other churches. Over time more and more symbols have been adopted into the Chrismon tradition.

Grace Notes

Habbakuk was a prophet of the northern kingdom likely during the reign of king Jehoiakim. The reference to the prophet living by faith will have a big impact on the theology of Paul and the New Testament understanding of faith.

This new hymn from composer and writer Claire Cloninger is intentionally simple so it may be learned quickly and sung without reference to a book. The simplicity disguises the deep theological themes of the arrival of Messiah and our collective prayer for God to come into the world as savior.

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3- [3b-6]. 17-19

SERMON

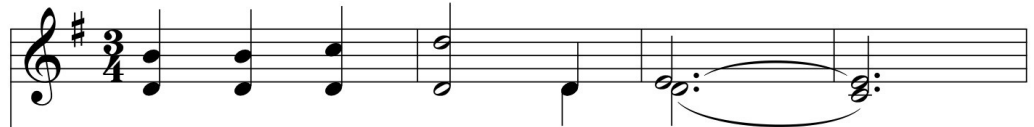
"Peaceful Holy Living"

Dr. Lowry

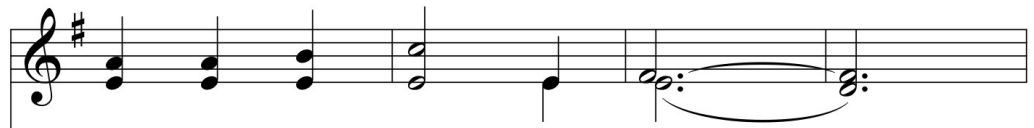
WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

+ HYMN OF RESPONSE "While We Are Waiting Come"

OFFERING



1 While we are wait - ing, come;
2 With power and glo - ry, come;
3 Come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come;



while we are wait - ing, come.
with power and glo - ry, come.
come, Sav - ior, quick - ly come.



Je - sus, our Lord, Em - man - u - el,



while we are wait - ing, come.



Grace Notes

The Eucharistic meal is set at God's table wherever people gather to share the bread and cup. We remember that though the bread and wine are simple, what happens at the table is extraordinary.

The words of the Sursum Chorda have varied through history. Although there is a traditional version, this newer one seeks to capture the spirit of the traditional prayer with new imagery and language.

OFFERTORY

"I Can't Wait"

Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch, Fats Kaplin Composers
Marcy Berry, Sally Browder, David Stricklin Trio

Someday we'll roll away the stone that we have carried for so long; all our burdens will be gone and I can't wait.

We will find our way to an understanding of all views; No prayer shall be refused; I can't wait.

It seems we have gone too far and now we don't know where we are; I believe we'll find a guiding star, but I can't wait.

If faith is the final place where all fears have been erased and the locks have fallen from the gates; I can't wait.

Someday we'll roll away the stone that we have carried for so long; All our burdens will be gone, And I can't wait.

We will find our way to an understanding of all views; No prayer shall be refused and I can't wait.

WE GATHER AT GOD'S TABLE

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

God's banquet is coming. The time we await when all will gather from North, East, West and South.

A banquet where the rich and powerful will sit with the weak and poverty-stricken. A table where young and old will learn from each other. A time when all will sit together in peace, "and the wolf will lie down with the lamb."

Here at this table we get a foretaste of God's banquet. This is indeed God's table, not the church's, and so all who seek to follow The Way are welcome to eat and drink from it.

Come and taste the grace eternal, come and see that God is good.

SURSUM CHORDA

God is with us

We are not alone

Christ is present here

The Spirit moves within us

Let us give thanks to God

In memory and in hope

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Blessings be to you, Creator God, who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and who continues to bring it love and light everlasting.

Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your ancient promise still brings us hope.

Over the ages you have called people to embrace your hope and share your love. But even when they have closed their ears to the song you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world.

They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope.

Grace Notes

This Great Thanksgiving is taken from multiple prayers from across the church world. Among the various prayers used, one is named "The Banquet of Hopeful Expectation."

The season of Advent is the season of expectation. Although we know how the story will end, with the birth of Messiah, we still enter the posture of hopeful expectation for these weeks.

Occasionally the words of institution over the bread and wine will be included in the Great Thanksgiving as they are here.

There is not a formal requirement for placement of the words of institution other than that they be said in some form by a Teaching Elder or authorized Ruling Elder.

And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out the promise in a new way

**Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus
Promising her that in her son the world would be changed**

And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry:

O come, O come Emmanuel.

Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this baby will live.

We remember how he broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be as he ate openly with the despised and the outcast of his world.

And we remember one special meal, foretaste of the banquet that is to come, that he ate with his closest friends.

Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation, he prepared them for liberation.

And at the end of the meal he took bread, blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying:

Take and eat. This bread is the body of Life, broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.

After that he took the cup, blessed it, and passed it to them saying:

This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it remember me, for I shall not eat or drink again until the time of the heavenly banquet.

Remembering the birth of the child in the stable, we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection.

We remember how he poured his love out all he met and look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love, and justice.

God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here.

As we eat and drink may we know your presence. As we eat and drink may we be opened to the possibilities of your hope and power and may we be strengthened in our time of waiting for peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas promise a reality. Amen.

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.**

Grace Notes

BREAKING THE BREAD

The Bread we break is the Bread of Life
The Cup we Share is the Cup of Promise
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Come and eat, the banquet awaits.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE DEPART IN GOD'S NAME

+PARTING HYMN #13 "Prepare the Way" BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

+CHARGE & BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE

Elders will be in the Parlor (outside the sanctuary doors) following worship if you would like to learn more about WHPC or if you are ready to join as part of the congregation.



PLEASE SEE BULLETIN INSERT FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, AND PASTORAL CARE LIST.