



WESTMINSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Third Sunday of Advent  
Sacrament of Communion  
13 December 2020 + 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer

Ministry Moment      Scholarship Presentation to Edison Zohfonyi

Voluntary      Infant Holy, Infant Lowly      Polish Carol, Keith Chapman, arr.

\***Ringing of the Bell**      *The congregation rises at the ringing of the Tower Bell.*

\***Lighting of the Third Advent  
Candle and Call to Worship**

Angela, Kevin and Olivia Simonson

People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.

Come, let us follow this light into Advent,  
into the wonder and heart of God's love.

Soloist: O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

God's love is rain in a dry land, and water in the deserts of our lives.  
And so the desert shall rejoice, and be filled with beauty and abundance.  
All the wilderness will sing together in joy.

Soloist: O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

People of God, come, for the light of joy calls us together.

Come, let us follow this light in our worship.

*The third Advent candle is lit.*

\***Hymn**      People, Look East

*Besañon*

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east: Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east: Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east: Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

**\*Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Christian K. Choi

Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing? You have sent the light into the world; why, then, have we loved darkness rather than light? Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden until righteousness and praise spring up, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Hear now our silent prayers of confession.

**\*Sung Response** Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us

**\*Declaration of Pardon** Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. The peace of Christ be with you. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*Response of Praise** Gloria Patri

**Children's Sermon**

Rev. Trajan I. McGill

**First Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; the Lord has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; <sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display God's glory. <sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. <sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for the Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation, the Lord has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**Music** Benedictus

William Lloyd Webber

## Second Scripture Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,  
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

<sup>24</sup> Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. <sup>25</sup> They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" <sup>26</sup> John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, <sup>27</sup> the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." <sup>28</sup> This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

**Sermon** Who I am Not

Rev. Christian K. Choi

*Text:* "when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." *John 1:19-21*

## Introduction to the Offering

**\*Offertory Response** Doxology

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

Let us lift our hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Let us pray. It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

*Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine.... Hear now the prayer Christ taught us to pray, saying:

## The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

## Words of Institution

## Music at Communion

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

## \*Prayer after Communion

Thank you, Holy and loving God, for filling us with the wonder and joy of your presence in this holy mystery as we gather around your table. Send us by your Spirit to bring good news to the poor, rejoice evermore, pray without ceasing, and always give thanks, holding fast to what is good. Until we are face to face once again, give us the wisdom and strength to testify to your marvelous light, giving you all the glory. Amen.

## \*Hymn

Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## \*Charge and Benediction

## \*Voluntary

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

(\*) The congregation is invited to stand.

## Worship Participants

Rev. Dr. Blythe D. Kieffer, Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Trajan I. McGill, Associate Pastor for Parish Life

Rev. Christian K. Choi, Associate Pastor for Family Ministry

Dale Rogers, Organist and Director of Music and the Arts

Angela, Kevin, and Olivia Simonson Lighting of the Advent Candle Wreath

Kamen Petkov, Violinist      Lyle VanDeventer, Bass

Elsie and Bob Fox, Videographers

Bill Deemer and Mary Ray, Communion Preparation Team

Todd Knox, Safety Team

## **2020 CHRISTMAS MUSIC FUND**

In Honor of Dale Rogers for wrangling the Walnuts and St. Andrews Sisters by Bob and Julie Blythe

In loving memory of our nephew James Blythe, who we miss every day,  
by Bob, Julie, Brian and Sarah Blythe.

In loving memory of Terry Wells by Julie, Bob, Brian and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Heather Huitt, who we miss every day, by Julie, Bob, Brian and Sarah Blythe

In memory of loved ones by Linda & Ed Caupert

In honor of Lyle VanDeventer for his work on the online worship services by Bill Deemer, Jr.

Leah Duling

In memory of Jack Fixmer by Gale Fixmer and their children

In memory of loved ones by Mary & Robert Leffler

In memory of our parents by Mary & Morley Peura

Sharon Reynolds

To the Glory of God and in Memory of loved ones by Susan & Michael Shaw

For the glory of music from the Manning and VanDeventer families

## **2020 CHRISTMAS DECORATION FUND**

In loving memory of Fred and Betty Blythe by Bob, Julie, Brian and Sarah Blythe

In loving memory of Ken and Lois Davis and Kathy Stittsworth by Julie and Bob Blythe

In loving memory of Aunt Viola by Julie Blythe

In memory of our grandparents by Meridith & James Bryans

In honor of Elsie & Bob Fox for their work on the online worship services by Bill Deemer, Jr.

Judy and Dale Huston

Karen Kraft

In memory of Dorothy and Walt Peura by Mary & Morley Peura

In memory of Ellis Hutcheson with love from the Robbs family

In memory of Heather Huitt, Dan VanDeventer and Dave, Marilyn, and Leroy Tungett

by Eleanor & Lyle VanDeventer

## **2020 CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND DECORATION FUND**

In memory of Robert Bellatti and Donna Wolaver by Sandy Bellatti

In memory of our grandparents by Ellen & Rance Carpenter

In memory of Grady M. Chronister and Katherine & Wendell Longworth by Linda Chronister

In memory of Mary Lou Cochran by Arthur Cochran

In memory of Morris D. Cooper, Sr. by Virginia Cooper and family

With appreciation for all that Dale Rogers does for Westminster by Sue Cull

In memory of Mary & Bill Schnirring and Helen & Harvey Dungan by Carolyn and Dan Dungan

In loving memory of Mary & Bill Schnirring and Henry & Darleen Germeraad  
by Kathy and Randy Germeraad

Sharon & Matthew Gilmour

In memory of Gerry Grigsby Hale by the Hale and Pound families

Ann & Keith Hamilton

Pat & Al Hymans

Kathleen Kenyon

In celebration of Blythe's mom, Betty Denham's 94th birthday by Blythe & Peter Kieffer

In memory of Rev. & Mrs. Ralph Kluge and Dr. & Mrs. George Maher by Priscilla & Tim Kluge

Patricia McKenzie

In memory of Marjorie and Claude Nicholson by their children

In loving memory of Glen D. Pittman by Jeanne Pittman and family

In memory of loved ones by Betsy Ruklick

Jo Ann & Eric Schmidt

Nancy & Lon Scott

Patricia Shafer

In memory of Lois Strom by Bruce Strom

In memory of Vivian Shire and Frances V.G. Carman, our mothers, who filled our lives  
with the gift of music by Jeanne & Peter VanGieson

In honor of Dr. Elvin & Mrs. Sharon Zook's 60th wedding anniversary on December 11 by Sharon Zook