

Service for the Lord's Day

December 12, 2021 11:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent



New to Hunter? Here's some information to help you feel at home. Where you see asterisks in the bulletin, you're invited to stand. When we pass the peace, you're invited to greet those around you with a joyful sign of Christ's peace. We offer a nursery for newborns through 3-year-olds. Thank you for visiting Hunter. We're glad you're here! Before you leave, please place a welcome card in the offering plate.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Prelude Prelude on "Greensleeves" arr. Richard Purvis

Welcome & Announcements

*Call to Worship

Come O God of Wonder.

Restore our hope in Your Son's coming.

Draw near to us in gracious love.

Welcome us again into Your marvelous Presence.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

*Hymn 99

"My Soul Gives Glory to My God"

MORNING SONG

Prayer of Confession

There is so much to be thankful for, O God, restore again in us thanksgiving. Too long we have resisted Your Reign, come restore in us the hope of Your Kingdom. There is so much for us to celebrate but we have lost the sacred sense of Joy. There is so much to illumine us but we have lost sight of the light of Your Glory. Transform us by Your life-giving Word and a renewed sense of Your ever-present Spirit. Unite us again as holy people draw together in love and Christian fellowship. May we experience this season a new birth of Christ in our lives we pray it again in His precious name. Amen.

(moment for silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn 582

"Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

GLORY TO GOD

*Passing of the Peace

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 40:1-5

(O.T., p. 667)

Reading from the New Testament

Luke 1:26-38

(N.T., p. 56)

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

"Mary Said 'Yes'"

Ray Mendenhall

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Presenting Our Tithes & Offerings

Choral Anthem

"Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming"

Michael Praetorius

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication

*Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*Charge & Benediction

*Hymn 561 "Amen" AMEN

Postlude Noël, Grand Jeu et Duo, No. 12 ("Swiss Noël") Louis-Claude Daquin

Depart in Peace

*Please stand as you are able.

Household Prayer: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.

Sunday Announcements

A warm welcome to all visitors. We are glad you chose to worship with us today.

Our liturgist today is: **Zach Gilbert**

Acolyte: **Colin Smith**

Prayer Requests

Prayers for: Becky Gift, Lori Taylor (a friend of Lynn Davis' who is battling cancer), Jim & Betty Scott, Susan Durant, Kriis Zeps and Rue Wallace.

This prayer request was posted by the community on the whiteboard in front of the church:

- The people in Indonesia after the volcano.

Today, the third Sunday of Advent, the lovely poinsettias provided by members and friends in honor or memory of loved ones make a striking addition to the evolving sanctuary decorations. Their vivid red color can evoke for us the refiner's fire of Malachi 3:1-4.

Christmas Joy Offering: By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's Gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and by developing our future leaders at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Christmas Joy Offering gift envelopes will be available in the pew racks through the Christmas Eve service.

At the conclusion of today's service, we will move downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for a dedication of the kitchen renovations and to thank all who helped with the work. Please join us!

After the dedication, we will be distributing and delivering goody bags to the congregation in lieu of our Christmas lunch. If you would like to help, please reach out to Ruth Beattie after worship today.

There will be no choir rehearsal this Wednesday, December 15. The choir will be back in rehearsal next Wednesday, December 22.

A word from your Stewardship Committee: as we near the completion of our Stewardship campaign for 2022, we would like to express our thanks for your generous response through your pledges. The Stewardship Committee is working to finalize a rough draft of the 2022 budget to present to the Session for their discussion and approval at their December meeting. If you have not already completed your 2022 pledge card, the committee would appreciate your giving prayerful consideration to doing so, in order that they can finalize the 2022 proposed budget for presentation to the Session. Should you need a pledge card, they are available in the church narthex or by contacting the church office. Thank you.

REGARDING 2021 PLEDGES – FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND CONVENIENCE

As has been done for the past number of years, a letter will be mailed to all individuals who made pledges to the 2021 Hunter budget. This letter will contain the status of your 2021 pledge.

If you would like to talk with Ray Mendenhall, he can be reached at 859-940-1735 or you can email him at: wmend@gmail.com.

Thank you to those who shared in leading today's service: Hyunjin Kwak, Allen Fletcher, Zach Gilbert, Colin Smith and Val Zeps.

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Hunter Presbyterian Church

(859) 277-5126 www.hunterlex.org

Check us out on Facebook: www.facebook.com/HunterPresbyterian

Rev. Ray Mendenhall, Transitional Pastor;

Hyunjin Kwak, Director of Music Ministry; Allen Fletcher, Organist;

Kevin Eddy, Property Manager; Lynn Davis, Administrative Assistant.