

## Service for the Lord's Day

December 5, 2021 11:00 a.m.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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**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. You will see our current Communion instructions in the Sunday Announcements section of the bulletin. We choose from a selection of several different kinds of bread (including gluten-free crackers) coming from various cultures in order to evoke the diversity of God's people, and our grape juice is non-alcoholic. 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.

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## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

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Prelude Reprise on "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz

Welcome & Announcements

\*Call to Worship

Come, Lord, like a descending dove

**Bathe us in Your Love**

Teach us again the wonders of Your Love

**Teach our hands to share it.**

\*Hymn 83 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" STUTTGART

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, Your Love is a powerful gift, yet we have not learned the deepest ways of Your Love. We have not received it fully or graciously. We have not embodied it completely nor always shared it freely. Yet it is your love that sustains us, cares for us, redeems us; Your Love remakes us in Your image. Open now our hearts again to the wonderful gift of Your ever present Love for us and for the world. Set Your Love at the center of our hearts and the center of our lives that it may become our gift to others. 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.**

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## HEARING THE WORD

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Prayer for Illumination

Reading from the Old Testament Isaiah 9: 11-14 (O.T., p. 638)

Reading from the New Testament John 3: 1-2 and 4: 7-11 (N.T., p. 93)

Message "All Because of Love" Ray Mendenhall

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## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

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Prayers of the People

Presenting Our Tithes & Offerings

Choral Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter" Harold Darke

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Dedication

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Opening Prayer

Litany of Praise

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

**O God of Power and Might**

Heaven and earth are full of Your Glory.

**Hosanna in the Highest**

Hosanna in the Highest

**Blessed in the One who comes**

**who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion

\*Hymn 104

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

\*Charge & Benediction

\*Hymn 561

"Amen"

AMEN

Postlude

"Savior of the Nations, Come"

arr. Paul Manz

Depart in Peace

\*Please stand as you are able.

Household Prayer: Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation. Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our redeemer, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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## Sunday Announcements

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

Our liturgist today is: **Zach Gilbert**

### Prayer Requests

**Prayers for:** 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:

- Refugees all over the world.

**There will be a Called Congregational Meeting today** immediately following the 11am worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a replacement member for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). You can attend this meeting either in-person or virtually through Zoom.

**Throughout Advent the decorations** in the Sanctuary will change subtly as the story gradually unfolds. The Advent wreath in the front is our anchor for the four Sundays before Christmas. On this second Sunday of Advent, shepherds keeping watch over their sheep have been added to some of the windows. While serving as characters who will in their own turn receive the glad tidings, these can also bring to mind the idea of God as Shepherd (Psalm 23, Isaiah 40:11). On the chancel you'll see the stable and animals that will set the scene for the birth of the Christ Child.

**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.

**Save the Date! On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December**, two special events will be taking place:

- 1) At the conclusion of the 11am worship 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.
- 2) Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will be unable to hold our annual Christmas lunch. Instead (after the dedication) we will be distributing goody bags to the congregation. If you are unable to attend worship on that Sunday, your goody bag will be delivered.

We hope to assemble 60 goody bags to distribute to members and friends of the church. If you would like to provide some cookies, snacks or small Christmas ornaments for these bags, please contact Ruth Beattie at [rebeat1@uky.edu](mailto:rebeat1@uky.edu) or 859-421-2650.

**If you would like to talk with Ray Mendenhall**, he can be reached at 859-940-1735 or you can email him at: [rwmend@gmail.com](mailto:rwmend@gmail.com).

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

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**Hunter Presbyterian Church**

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Rev. Ray Mendenhall, Transitional Pastor;

Hyunjin Kwak, Director of Music Ministry; Allen Fletcher, Organist;  
Kevin Eddy, Property Manager; Lynn Davis, Administrative Assistant.