

WEBSTER GROVES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Service for the Lord's Day
December 27, 2020
9:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION
We seek to live Christ's love,
welcome all people and joyfully serve God.



Service for the Lord's Day

✦ *When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit.*

~GATHERING FOR GOD'S WORD~

PRELUDE

"Carol Medley"
Shawn Portell, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

WELCOME AND COMMUNITY LIFE

As the music begins, let us use this time for quiet reflection and prayer, so that we, individually and as a great crowd of witnesses, may prepare ourselves to reaffirm our faith as the people of God.

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP

Deb Grossman, Liturgist

There is good news of great joy for all!

Our Savior is born: the Messiah, the Lord.

Christ is born!

Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven!

Receive him!

Christ is now on earth!

Exalt him!

O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

Glory to God in the highest!

✦ HYMN

"Jesus Comes"
Worship Band

Sally Ann Morris

In a far-off place, Jesus comes to earth.

Sheep and cattle grace the site.

*As the angel songs begin, like the whisper of the wind,
nature's hope awakes again; Jesus comes.*

For the poor in heart, Jesus comes to earth.

Humble shepherds start the news.

*For each homeless infant born, for the meek and those who mourn,
for the weary and the worn, Jesus comes.*

In our deepest night, Jesus comes to earth:

Radiant star to light our way.

*Summer's heat or winter's chill, with a warm and loving will,
to a world that needs him still, Jesus comes.*

✦CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all
and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world.
Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

✦PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of grace and truth,
in Jesus Christ you came among us
as light shining in the nighttime.
We confess that we have not welcomed the dawn,
or trusted good news to be good.
We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst,
expecting little, and hoping for less.
Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope,
so that we may receive the fullness of your grace,
and live in the truth of Christ the Lord.
Amen.**

✦ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the promise of the Lord:
See, your salvation has come!
You are a holy people, redeemed by God;
sought out and not forsaken.
This is the good news:
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

✦PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

"He Came Down"

HE CAME DOWN

*He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forever more.*

Additional stanzas:

*...that we may have light
...that we may have peace
...that we may have joy*

~PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD~

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Deb Grossman, Liturgist

Gracious God,
by the gift of your Holy Spirit
show us the Word made flesh—
good news of great joy for all—
so that we may sing with the angels:
glory in the highest and peace on earth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Pew Bible, pg. 692

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he 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. ¹¹For 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.

⁶²For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-40

Pew Bible, pg. 59

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON

Rev. Hannah Zyla

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

~RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD~

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
let us pray for the life of the world,
saying: O Christ, our light,
hear our prayer.

We pray for the church...
With Mary, help us to treasure and ponder
the gift that has been given to us,
a gift of good news and great joy for all.
O Christ, our light,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the world...
With the prophets, help us to proclaim
the promise of your peace for all
nations and your justice for all people.
O Christ, our light,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for this community...
With the shepherds, help us to keep
watch over those entrusted to our care
and all who need protection this night.

O Christ, our light,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for loved ones...
With the angels, help us to offer
signs of hope, comfort, and joy
for all who live in fear.

O Christ, our light,
Hear our prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,
help us to bear witness to your light
so that all may believe and have life in you;
in your holy name we pray.

Amen.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING INVITATION

A child has been born for us;
a Savior, given to us.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

“Winter Snow”
Peter Scales, solo

Audrey Assad

*You could've come like a mighty storm, with all the strength of a hurricane;
You could've come like a forest fire, with the power of heaven in your flame.*

*Chorus: But You came like a winter snow quiet, and soft, and slow;
falling from the sky in the night to the earth below.*

*You could've swept in like a tidal wave, or in an ocean to ravish our hearts;
You could've come through like a roaring flood to wipe away the things we've scarred*

Chorus

*Your voice wasn't in a bush burning.
Your voice wasn't a rushing wind.
It was still, it was small, it was hidden.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of mystery and might,
we praise and worship you,

for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping,
to enter our world as a child of humble birth.
By your Spirit make our hearts burn with thanksgiving,
that we may give as we have received.
Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you,
and may all we offer be used to build
amore holy and joyful world for all children.

Amen.

SONG

“You Are the Light of the World”
Worship Band

Paul A. Tate

*Chorus: You are the light of the world! You are the light of the world!
Let your light shine for all to see!
You are the light of the world!*

*Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the lost and homeless.
Your wounds shall quickly be healed;
your light shall break forth like the dawn!*

Chorus

*Hear the cries of the needy; listen with love and compassion.
Our God will answer their call and fill them with unending joy!*

Chorus

*Jesus tells his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth!
Your light must shine before all!
Give glory to God’s holy name!*

CHARGE

The loving kindness of the Lord our God ,
the grace of Jesus Christ our Savior,
and the renewing power of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

Go tell this good news of great joy:
to us a Savior is born. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“You Are the Light if the World”
Worship Band

Paul Tate

MINISTRY STAFF

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias

WGPC members purchased poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. Flowers donated include the following:

In memory of our mothers

Given by Julie Wood

In memory of Eleanor Joy Booth

Given by Mary and Amanda Joy Kinsley

Giving Tree

Thank you so much to all who have contributed to the Giving Tree this year! The gifts have all been delivered and our partners and their clients were very grateful for our support during these challenging times. If you would still like to make a donation you can do so by check (indicating "Giving Tree" in the memo), or on the church website (wgpc.org/give) by December 30th. Thank you!

The Dirt on Compost

Get The Dirt on Compost via Zoom on Monday, January 4th at 2:00pm. Presented by EarthWays Center. Registration required: Check the Friday Flash or wgpc.org/announcements for the registration link.

Faithful, Hopeful, Loving

The Faithful Hopeful Loving campaign is currently at \$850,204 which is 80% of our goal. If you haven't had a chance to send yours in yet, please mail your card to the church, pledge online (wgpc.org/give/pledge-now) or contact Jan Scheurer (jls@wgpc.org) with any questions.

Church Building Closed

The building will be closed for the holidays Thursday, December 31st and Friday, January 1st.