



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morning Worship | New Year's Day | January 1, 2023 | 9:30 a.m.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

VOLUNTARY

Tom Mitts, guest organist

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Sheila Schwartzmann

Calling all seekers, all dreamers, all believers...

Calling all glass-half-full optimists and lighthouse keepers...

Calling all star-chasers and bedtime prayer speakers...

Bring your questions, your hope, your faith and your fear into this space.

God is here.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gladly, O God, we come together, here in this place, to seek your deeper presence in the silence. We bring before you our wounds and our weariness from the journey. Together we look with hopeful expectation to find the star which signals your arrival. Thankfully, we come forward to kneel and to receive the glory of your presence. With our little gifts we are humbled before you. We pray in the name of the Human One, Emmanuel, God With Us. Amen.

*HYMN 150

“As with Gladness Men of Old”

DIX

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the prayer of confession, we acknowledge that more often than we'd like to admit, we find ourselves following the wrong star, veering off the path God has set for us, following instead whatever new shiny sign is present. Fortunately for us, God is the map maker, and God's map is measured in grace, so we have nothing to fear. Let us pray together. Let us seek God together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

God of starlight, we know that faith isn't a vending machine. Good news can't be bought or manufactured. It does not arrive with a push of a button. Instead, in this noisy world, we have to look for you in our midst. We have to walk toward you, just as the Magi did. We have to believe that love really can change the world. We have to seek the stars beyond the city lights. Forgive us for forgetting that. Forgive us for seeking you with only part of our hearts.

We long to be more like the Magi; may we walk your way every single day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, I have nothing but good news. Since the very first day, God has taken the pieces of our hearts that we have offered up and has said, “I can work with that.” Even in our failings, God has washed us with words of grace, belonging, and love. No matter what star you've followed, no matter how far you've walked, no matter how lost you got— you belong to God. God loves you. God forgives you. God claims you. End of story. Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE READING (*response: Thanks be to God.*)

Matthew 2:1-12

MEDITATION

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

Upon invitation, you may come forward and draw a star word from one of the tables.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Nicene Creed” (*unison*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

THE OFFERING

Offertory

Tom Mitts, guest organist

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer (*Hymnal, page 35*)

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

(cont.)

SENDING

*HYMN 143

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

REGENT SQUARE

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*VOLUNTARY

*Please stand as you are able

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

TODAY'S LITURGY AND PRAYERS are by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed of *A Sanctified Art LLC*.

SERVING COMMUNION this morning are Hallie Boh and Laurie Young.

TODAY'S USHERS are David Mize (captain), Laura Avery, Deanna McLendon, Kelley and Laura McWhirter, and Barrett Wheeler.

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Richard W. Freeman by Mr. and Mrs. Philip Woolham.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL YOUTH PARENTS MEETING: All parents of SCAPC youth (grades 6-12), please join us this Wednesday, January 4 at 6 p.m. for a virtual Parents Meeting to kick off 2023! It will be no more than a half hour and in this meeting Youth Director Chris Hazlaris will discuss the summer trips open to our 6th-12th graders this year, including our first mission trip in years! Chris will also be sharing what youth can expect from our ministry in the coming months and how we can best be supported by parents and families in our endeavors. The Zoom link emailed to all parents before the meeting. Please note that Youth Group and Sunday School will resume January 8.

YAF TWELFTH NIGHT PARTY: Kick off the carnival season with YAF (Young Adults & Families)! This Friday, January 6, we will gather at the Land Building at 6 p.m. for Popeye's and king cake. Please bring a king cake to share for the tasting party! Around 7 p.m., we will head to St. Charles Avenue to watch the Phunny Phorty Phellows and the Funky Uptown Krewe pass by on the streetcar line. Please RSVP by Wednesday to tyler@scapc.org. To view YAF's full calendar of events, visit our YAF page (scapc.org/yaf).

WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT will resume with a New Year's celebration on January 11 at 6 p.m. in Frampton Fellowship Hall! Stay tuned for details, and in the meantime, visit our WNO page (scapc.org/wno) for the winter/spring program line-up!

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES RESUMES NEXT WEEK

All classes meet at 9:30 a.m.

UPCOMING ADULT CLASSES

“African American Spirituality”

Led by Richard Ashmore | January 8-February 5 | Learning Center (2nd floor) and Zoom
We will explore African American spirituality from its roots in many diverse Western African societies to its many manifestations in America today, learning how enslaved Africans adopted and adapted Christianity.

“God, Improv, & The Art of Living”

Book by MaryAnn McKibben Dana | January 8-April 30 | 2nd floor conference room
This book blends personal stories, pop culture and Scripture into a smart, funny down-to-earth guide to the art of living.

SCAPC.ORG/SUNDAY-SCHOOL

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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