



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Morning Worship | Christmas Day | December 25, 2022 | 9:30 a.m.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Currie

VOLUNTARY

Steven Blackmon, organ

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

The Word was with God at the beginning and through him all things were created. No created thing came into being without him.

In the Word was life and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to put it out.

To those whom he came he gave the right to become children of God, not through human desire, but through God alone.

So, the Word became flesh; he came among us and was one of us. And we saw his glory, the glory which befits God's only son, full of grace and truth.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Son; grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

IN DULCI JUBILO

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*responsive*)

The prayer of confession will be centered on the already lit Advent wreath. One by one, we will extinguish the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, only to relight them from the Christ candle at the end.

Holy God, too often we feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope.

Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing hope.**

Holy God, too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace—both in ourselves and in our society—we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up.

Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing peace.**

Holy God, too often we paint joy as naive—a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light.

Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing joy.**

Holy God, too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we'll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbors, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly.

Together we pray: **Forgive us for extinguishing love.**

- by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed of A Sanctified Art LLC.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Family of faith, sin separates us from things like hope, peace, and joy. Sin wiggles its way between us and love, both love of neighbor and love of self. Fortunately for us, God had something else in mind. God sent God's only son to this world so that we could see another way. So friends, hear and believe the good news of the gospel: no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy—no matter how many times we let love burn out—God continues to light our way. We are forgiven. We are seen. We are loved. The good news of this day—the hope, the peace, the joy, and the love of this day—exists for you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

THE WORD

A TIME FOR ALL

“Good King Wenceslas”

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

VERSE 1

ALL:

**Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight gathering winter fuel.**

VERSE 2

Voice 1:

Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowst telling
yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?

Voice 2:

Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence by Saint Agnes Fountain.

(cont.)

VERSE 3

Voice 1:

Bring me flesh and bring me wine. Bring me pine logs hither.
Thou and I shall see him dine when we bear them thither.

ALL:

**Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together
through the rude wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.**

VERSE 4

Voice 2:

Sire, the night is darker now and the wind blows stronger.
Fails my heart, I know not how, I can go no longer.

Voice 1:

Mark my footsteps, good my page, tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shall find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.

VERSE 5

ALL:

**In his master’s steps he trod where the snow lay dinted.
Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.**

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

John 1:1-14

MEDITATION

Chris Currie

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “The Apostles’ Creed” (*unison, Hymnal p. 35*)

*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

THE OFFERING

Offertory

Steven Blackmon

*Doxology, Hymn 606

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDRETH

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING

*HYMN 136

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

GO TELL IT

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*VOLUNTARY

*Please stand as you are able

UPCOMING SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

“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.

**Sunday School for all ages will resume January 8.
All classes meet at 9:30 a.m.**

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