



ST. CHARLES AVENUE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
*Online Worship*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021 | SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

## GATHERING

*Good Morning and welcome to worship at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this Second Sunday of Christmas.  
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

WELCOME TO WORSHIP & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Hazlaris

VOLUNTARY

"Carol of the Bells"  
The SCAPC Chancel Choir Orchestra

Ukrainian Carol, arr. Hayman

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(from Psalm 147:12-20)*

Trent Sundmaker

Together let us praise God. The Lord strengthens us and blesses our progeny. He grants peace within our borders and hearts. He fills us with the finest of sustenance. He sends out his command to all the earth; his word runs swiftly. He gives snow like wool; scatters frost like ashes. He hurls down hail like falling crumbs, and who can stand before his cold? All falls short before his Word. He makes his wind blow and the waters flow. Praise the Lord.

HYMN

"How Brightly Shown the Morning Star"

arr. Vaughan Williams

CALL TO CONFESSION

Griff Thomas

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But when we confess our sins, God who is faithful and merciful will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Trusting in God's grace, let us now confess our sins, aloud and/or in the silence of our hearts.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Holy Creator, in your presence we confess our failure to choose the radical and sometimes uncomfortable love you have created us to align ourselves with. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, and not our own, for the good of others, ourselves, and the world you choose to heal through us.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The new life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

## THE WORD

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Presentation of Sylvie DiSalvo  
Introduction & Declarations of Intent  
Prayer of Thanksgiving Over the Water  
Baptism  
Welcome

Sylvie Elise DiSalvo  
Michele Murphy  
Michael Jinkins

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Jacob Thomas

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with humility and receptivity what you hope to say to us today. Amen.  
Listen attentively to where God desires to move you today.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

SERMON

"When Light Looks Like Darkness"

Chris Hazlaris

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH "The Apostles' Creed"

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

GLORIA PATRI

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

SERVICE OF CONFIRMATION FOR CHARLOTTE GREEN

THE PEOPLES' PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Healing God, as COVID continues to spread across the world and our communities, we pray in the name of Jesus for your gift of health. We pray for the wellness of our friends, loved ones, and neighbors, that your peace and strength may be granted to all those who fall sick in these days, and that you share with us your wisdom and the courage to be co-healers and preventers through the decisions we choose to make for our society.

Compassionate God, there is so much pain in this world right now. Whether it takes the form of mental illness, physical maladies, abuse, addiction, bullying, family conflict, loss of dear friends and loved ones, unemployment, or the feeling of just losing our Purpose, future, our sense of self, suffering abounds. Hear our cries and do not let us remain here feeling abandoned. Comfort us with your love and peace, Lord, please.

Universal God, help us not to forget that persons of all religions, nations, and spiritual backgrounds are equally your children, as are non-human entities- from the farm animal to the forest shrub to the bird diligently making its nest. Broaden our minds and our hearts to welcome and consider our neighbors like you do, putting life and love above convenience, prejudice, and ignorance.

Invigorating God, inspire and encourage us when we wish not to persevere on the path towards light, when the ways of our world seem easier and more favorable than the paths you wish us to walk. We ask this because though we may know what is good for us, it is so hard for us to remain motivated to align ourselves with your living Word.

Merciful God, when we fall short, when we choose darkness over light and when we choose to not educate ourselves or push ourselves to where your TRUE light lies, forgive us and help us to turn away from a trajectory that does not nearly hold the same level of promise and fulfillment as Your Way.

God of peace, halt the conflicts of the world, internationally, within our own sectarian nation, and among our communities and households. Remind us of the humanity we share and empower us to bear with one another and see past differences, our fragile egos, and our superficial frameworks of justice.

All-seeing God, illuminate where your blessings are alive in the world. We have so much to be thankful for. And, importantly, help us to see where your Word is alive in the world, and where we are confusing your light for our own, imperfect ideas of a life well lived.

Knowing that God holds all these characteristics and is with us and for us in all things, let us together say the prayer that His Son Jesus taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

"Gesu Bambino"  
Betsy Uschkrat, soprano

Yon

DOXOLOGY

"Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"

OLD HUNDREDTH

## SENDING

HYMN

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!"

MENDELSSOHN, arr. Rutter

CHARGE AND BLESSING

May you leave this service knowing how deeply you are blessed with the saving Word of God, AND with the opportunity to FEEL and SPREAD the richness of that living Word here and now. So choose light -true light- over dark, take risks, do the hard thing, and love will not disappoint you.

**Amen.**

VOLUNTARY

"A Christmas Scherzo"  
The SCAPC Chancel Choir Orchestra

Sebesky

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*Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon*



## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

was administered to

SYLVIE ELISE DISALVO,

daughter of Stephanie and Nick DiSalvo,

on December 15, 2020.