



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 12, 2021 | Third Sunday of Advent
8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Services

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
VOLUNTARY

Sarah Chancellor-Watson
Burhans

“Magnificat”

My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden; for behold from hence forth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his name, and his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent empty away. He, remembering his mercy, hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Chamber Singers Women’s Ensemble

•*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (from Zephaniah 3:14-20)

Betsy and Pat Widhalm

The prophet Zephaniah proclaims, “Rejoice, Daughter Zion! Shout, Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart! The Lord your God is in your midst. He will create calm with his love; He will deliver the lame; He will gather the outcast. He will change your shame into praise.”

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy. We rejoice in the presence of our Lord. With glad hearts we share with all of creation the blessings of God, awaiting the day of redemption for all and the establishment of God’s Kingdom on earth.

Choral and Congregational Response (first choir, then congregation)

HYMN 95

“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

PREPARE THE WAY

“Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.”

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Exuberant, Life-Giving God, as Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit, was moved to bless Mary’s child, so fill us with your Spirit, so that those we encounter may likewise be blessed with the joy of your Spirit. May we forever find delight in being your children and walking in your ways. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

•*HYMN 87

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

GENEVAN 42

•CALL TO CONFESSION

•CONFESSION OF SIN (unison)

O Lord our God, if only we had (X) then we would be happy and find fulfillment in your service. If only we felt (X) then we would be free to fully rejoice in your presence. If only we could do (X), then we could magnify you.

Forgive us for thinking we need certain attainments, credentials, or readiness to receive and reflect your grace. Forgive us for thinking we are serving you by chasing happiness. Forgive us for not believing you have given us everything we need to be bearers of your mercy and grace.

Exuberant, Life-Giving God, as Elizabeth, filled with the Spirit, was moved to bless Mary’s child, so fill us with your Spirit, so that those we encounter may likewise be blessed with the joy of your Spirit. May we forever find delight in being your children and walking in your ways. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy upon us; Christ, have mercy upon us; Lord, have mercy upon us.

Blackmon

•ASSURANCE OF PARDON

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Zephaniah 3:14-20

†MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN/WHITE GIFT DEDICATION

Russell Steele

•GOSPEL LESSON (response: **Thanks be to God.**)

Luke 1:39-55

•SERMON

“Joy > Happiness”

Chris Currie

•*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: “The Apostle’s Creed” (unison, Hymnal p. 35)

•*GLORIA PATRI, Hymn 581

“Glory Be to the Father”

GLORIA PATRI

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Hymnal, p. 35)

•THE OFFERING

Offertory Anthem

“The Apple Tree”

Scott

*Doxology, Hymn 606

The Chancel Choir Chamber Singers

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

OLD HUNDRETH

*Prayer of Dedication

•SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER (8:30 service only)

SENDING

•*HYMN 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

•*CHARGE AND BLESSING

•*VOLUNTARY

IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

THE FLOWERS IN THE SANCTUARY are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Haywood Hardy Henderson, Mrs. Marietta Lawton Fabacher, and Mr. William Michael Mann, Sr. by Lyn and Bob Fabacher.

THE WHITE ROSE is placed in honor of the birth of Neil Harding Tipton who was welcomed into the family of John and Anna Tipton through adoption on November 18.

THE FRONT DOOR WREATHS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Richmond's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Berckes, and Mr. Randolph Richmond, Jr. by Mrs. Randolph Richmond, Jr.

THE ADVENT BANNERS are given in loving memory of Tom and Kathryn "Kit" Favrot.

TODAY'S USHERS for the 8:30 service are Mayson Buffington, Miriam Hollar, Thomas Schulingkamp and Wesley Simon. The ushers for the 10:30 service are Roger Fleshman (captain), Leon Hinson, Maureen Herring, Sallee Benjamin, Jay Young, Caty Johnson, Jane Rasi, and Kandice and Mike Snow.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 9:30-10:15 Details and Zoom links at scapc.org/sunday-school

ADULT CLASSES:

"Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent" - Sundays, November 28-December 19 | Land Building Lakeside Room and Zoom: Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi.

"Pairadocs" - September 19-December 19 | 2nd floor Learning Center (in-person only): Exploring a humorous marriage, parenting, and family podcast by a father-son duo with Ph.D.'s in Clinical Counseling.

YOUTH & CHILDREN: 6th-12th graders meet in the Youth Room on the 3rd floor as well as virtually on Instagram (@SCAPC_Youth). Children ages 2 - 5th grade are divided into age groups in different locations which are posted at the State Street entrance. The nursery is open from 8:15-11:45 a.m. for children ages 0-3.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS Full Event Schedule at scapc.org/advent

Please note that for all SCAPC events, unvaccinated guests are asked to wear masks in consideration of others.

A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS: Next Sunday, the 10:30 service will center on the music of the SCAPC Choir Chamber Ensemble and Orchestra! The program will include arrangements of traditional carols by John Rutter, David Willcocks, Mack Wilberg, Gerald Finzi, and others, as well as orchestral voluntaries and congregational carols. We request that all in attendance wear festive face masks! Steven B. Blackmon will direct and Chris Currie will give a homily.

YAF CHRISTMAS BRUNCH & GIFT EXCHANGE All Young Adults & Families (YAF) are invited to our annual Christmas Brunch and Gift Exchange today! We will gather at the Land Building immediately following 10:30 worship to share a meal and exchange gifts.

LUMINARY ORDERS DUE TODAY! Pathways of luminaries will be lit in front of the church on the nights of December 18-26. Each luminary can be purchased in honor or memory of a family member, friend, or even pet. Acknowledgements for each will be included in the bulletins on December 19 and Christmas Eve, as well as the Quatrefoil e-newsletter. The cost is \$15 per luminary. For ordering details, please see the luminary order envelopes in your pew or go to scapc.org/luminaries.

THE SCAPC CHRISTMAS VILLAGE is back on track and on display in Fellowship Hall! Many thanks go to Geoff Snodgrass for creating this wonderful scene each year for all to enjoy.

FOOD DRIVE: During Advent, we are collecting food for the Broadmoor Food Pantry. Each week we will highlight a different food item relating to that week's Advent candle. You can bring non-perishable items to the collection bins inside the main entryway doors during the week or to Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. For next week's "Peace" theme, we will collect MAC 'N' CHEESE which is a simple side dish that kids and grown-ups gobble up!

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

SITTER BONUSES: We are so thankful for our staff of loving nursery sitters. If you would like to honor them with a bonus, please drop your check (made out to "Cash" with "Sitter Bonus" in the memo) in the donation boxes outside of the nursery and playground, or Venmo your donation to Michele Murphy (@Michele-Murphy-12). Note that 'Michele' has one 'L' in it.

FOOD DELIVERERS & DINNER HOSTS NEEDED: RHINO will soon be hosting out-of-state groups again! We are looking for people to help deliver food and/or serve as dinner hosts. If you are interested, please email Savannah Fraser at rhino@scapc.org. All groups will be fully vaccinated before arriving in New Orleans.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Stewart Peck on the death of his mother, Jacqueline Foster Peck.