

Taking the light of Christ out into the World

Advent 2020

ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT | WHITE GIFT SUNDAY | VIRTUAL WORSHIP

GATHERING

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

"Let us worship God."

VOLUNTARY

Chorale Prelude on "Jesus, Will You Now Come Down to Earth"

Bach

Sam Garnett, guest organist for voluntaries

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Jennie Wimbish and Charles Duvernay, Sadie, Maddie, and Julianne Duvernay

The voice of the prophet announces: "God has sent me to bring good news to the poor, the captive and prisoner, the brokenhearted and those who mourn."

This is the year of the Lord's favor and we will sing for joy and praise God from deep in our souls!

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

On this third Sunday of Advent we light this candle as testament to the light of Christ – the joy of our salvation – in our hearts and in the world. May it be a reminder to us that as we watch and wait for the coming Christ, we bring with us this light wherever we go.

HYMN

"Watchman, Tell Us of the Night!"

ABERYSTWYTH

Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are.

Traveler, what a wondrous sight: see that glory-beaming star.

Watchman, does its beauteous ray news of joy or hope foretell?

Traveler, yes; it brings the day, promised day of Israel.

Watchman, tell us of the night; higher yet that star ascends.

Traveler, blessedness and light, peace and truth its course portends.

Watchman, will its beams alone gild the spot that gave them birth?

Traveler, ages are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.

Traveler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.

Traveler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Parke and Nancy Ellis

Holy, holy, holy, are you O Lord our God. Your truth is truth. Your way is sure. Your mercy is everlasting. Your life is eternal. Today we come before you much like Isaiah did, conscious that our lips are not truthful, that our ways can be crooked, that our mercy is intermittent, and our life illusory. We pray that your Spirit which dwells even now in our hearts will rouse us from our moral slumber. Send us, we pray, to lift up the meek, to bind up the broken-hearted, to claim liberty and to loosen the bonds of those who are captive. Give us the courage to proclaim your kingdom in our time, and to comfort those who mourn. In all these ways, enlighten our hearts and set free our hands that we may embody your love where we live. Amen.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Michael Jinkins

We pray for your Spirit today, O Lord, to light a fire in our hearts that will make your Word clear unto us, and that will move us to live as you wish for us to live. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Henry Hicks Fritchie
John Robert Richards
Anderson Baker

Presentation

Introduction & Declarations of Intent

*Profession of Faith and "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.

Thanksgiving Over the Water

Baptism

Welcome

THE ADVENT LESSON

*Isaiah 61:1-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory. Because their shame was double, and dishonor was proclaimed as their lot, therefore they shall possess a double portion; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I 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. For 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.

SERMON

"Don't Believe Everything You Think"

Michael Jinkins

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

In the hushed anticipation of your coming, O Lord,
kindle in us the desire to remain awake;
that we might be ready for your coming, and eager to pray.

O God, in days to come the mountain of your house will be established, and your joy shall reign.
We pray for the church, that you might teach us your ways and that we might walk in your paths.

Out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and you, O God, shall judge between the nations.
We pray for our nation, and all nations, that your peace would be manifest in every corner of the earth.

In your Kingdom, O Lord, wolves lie down with lambs and children play with serpents without fear.
We pray for the sick, the suffering, and those in distress of any kind,
that you would heal all injuries, comfort all grief, and settle all wrongs.

In the fulness of time, O God, you sent your son, to be born of our sister Mary.
And his name was Emmanuel: God With Us.
We thank you for your Presence with us, and we pray that you might be always present
with those whom we love but see no longer.

Come among us O God, and hear our prayers; so that when your Son Jesus comes among us
with great might, and in manger mild, we might recognize his face and his voice, and come to adore him.

We pray for all who are grieving the loss of loved ones during these difficult days, especially for the Harris Family and the Kennedy Family. We pray that you would grant wisdom to the leadership of our local communities, our cities, our states and our country that they might discern a path forward in these perilous times. Indeed, grant all of us wisdom and courage for the living of these days. We pray these things in the name of the one who taught us to pray,

**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

"The Work of Christmas"
Tyler Smith, tenor

Forrest

WHITE GIFT DEDICATION

God of light and grace, every good thing we have is from you. From very air we breathe to the love between our family and friends. Nothing we ever do can repay the love and mercy you show us everyday. Still we live in grateful response to your love that shines in our lives as we share that light with others. We are especially grateful for the opportunity to connect with those whose needs are different from our own, and to be reminded of the gifts of community and our interdependence on each other and on you. Bless these gifts we have gathered, and with your Spirit may joy and love be multiplied through them. Help us to be generous in all that we do, so that we may continue in the ways of your life-giving Spirit. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

SENDING

HYMN

"Love Has Come"

BRING A TORCH

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how the song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder. Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother; what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers. Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us! Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us. Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

CHARGE AND BLESSING

VOLUNTARY

"In Thee is Joy"
Sam Garnett, guest organist for voluntaries

Bach

In Today's Service

* THE ISAIAH TEXT which is our Advent lesson today is often coupled with The Gospel According to St. Luke 4:16-32 in which Jesus acknowledges his calling from God using the words of Isaiah 61:1-4.

EACH ADVENT SEASON OUR CHURCH'S WHITE GIFT MINISTRY is one of our most treasured traditions as we collaborate with our Community Ministry partners to share the light and the joy of this season with our neighbors through these generous gifts. I wanted to thank everyone who bought gifts for the children and adults on our list, who bought books for STAIR, who gave scholarships for our Carrollton Campers, and helped purchase seeds for the Okra Abbey giving garden. You all pivoted to an all-online format and every single need was fulfilled! I especially want to thank Sarah Edgecombe, Christina Carlisle, and Ashley Hope for once again organizing and pulling off this endeavor, not missing a beat in the midst of a pandemic! Thank you all! - Pastor Sarah

VIDEOGRAPHY AND PHOTOS by Steven B. Blackmon



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
was administered to
HENRY HICKS FRITCHIE,
son of Christina and Alec Fritchie,
on December 9, 2020.



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM
was administered to
JOHN ROBERTS RICHARDS,
son of Gretchen and John Richards,
on December 9, 2020.