

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Variations on “Dona Nobis Pacem”* J. Lasater  
 (“Grant Us Peace”)

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES John & Margie Gill,  
Willard & Fay Carr

☩ RESPONSE MERLE’S TUNE

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night  
To welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world’s True Light  
Peace flares out from this candle, O weary world, rejoice!  
Together let us praise him, O come and raise your voice**

☩ CALL TO WORSHIP *from* Isaiah 40:3-5

One: A voice cries out:

**All: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.**

One: Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;

**All: the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.**

One: Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

**All: Together, let us worship the Lord.**

☩ HYMN OF PRAISE *People, Look East* #105

☩ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of laughter, of open front doors and family reunions, we confess that we often doubt good news. We move through this world waiting for the other shoe to drop, waiting for life to fall apart, waiting for our humanity to get the best of us. Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity, we lean into fear, we lean into isolation. Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when it is shared. Heal the wounds from our past hurts and show us how to find joy in connection. Amen.**

☩ ASSURANCE OF GOD’S LOVE

One: When we come before God with the truth of our lives, God will meet us with laughter, with joy, with embracing, and with love.

**All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

☩ RESPONSE *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* #143, v. 4

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son  
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One  
One in might and one in glory while unending ages run!**

☩ PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please sign the Registration Pad found at the end of the row and pass it along.

MOMENT FOR MISSION – Stewardship Commitment Team

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

All children are invited to come forward for the Time for Young Disciples. Following this time, children through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to Children’s Church.

☩ HYMN OF PREPARATION *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* #306, omit v. 4

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

HEBREW BIBLE READING Isaiah 40:1-11 p. 667 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Who But the Lord?* Craig Courtney

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:24-45 p. 56 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

THE WORD PROCLAIMED Sarah Morgan

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming* arr. F. Bock

☩ Response *In the Bleak Midwinter* CRANHAM

**Praise the One Creator, praise the Living Christ**

**Praise the Holy Spirit, praise both day and night**

**Praise when we are weary, praise in times of joy**

**Praise the Lord with all our strength, heart and soul and voice**

☩ Prayer of Dedication

☩ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift, existing on a plane deeper than happiness, stemming from the truth that we belong to God. We believe that joy is not meant for isolation. Joy is meant to be shared, weaving us together in laughter and in hope. When joy feels impossibly out of reach, we believe that part of being sacred community is leaning on one another; that we share our joy with others when theirs runs out, and that others will share their joy with us when ours runs out. In doing so, we all see God.**

☩ HYMN OF SENDING *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* #107

☩ BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

☩ POSTLUDE *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* arr. J. Binford

☩ PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR IN SPIRIT, AS YOU ARE ABLE

### SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

Dana Hendrix – Liturgist

Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

John Lasater – Organist

2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Ushers: Lisa and John Henley, Tracy Horton and, Henry Naff

Technicians: Matt Casey (video); Elizabeth Seastrunk (audio)

### WORSHIP

**UPCOMING SERMON TEXTS AND TOPICS:** Our Advent sermon series is *How Does a Weary World Rejoice?* Drawn from a line in the familiar Christmas hymn, *O Holy Night*, we are reflecting on how we hold space for both our weariness and our joy during the Advent season, and how these two things live together in our lives.

Dec 10	Luke 1:24-45	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Find Joy in Connection</i>
Dec 17	Luke 1:57-66	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed</i>
Dec 24 (am)	Luke 1:46-55	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Sing Stories of Hope</i>
Dec 24 (pm)	Luke 2:1-20	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Make Room</i>

**THE FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the glory of God.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS** Order your Christmas Poinsettias by December 13. Order in Realm (Events tab) or check our E-news to get a digital copy of the order form. Forms are also in the Narthex and in the church office.

**USHERS NEEDED** Are you interested in serving 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian in a position that allows you to meet and welcome both members and guests to Sunday Worship? Kim Hudgens and Janis Smith, who coordinate the usher schedule, are recruiting new members of the ushering team. This is a low-stress way to make a personal contribution to church worship. Please contact Kim (kimhudgens05@comcast.net or 865-567-6477) or Janis (smithjb1@gmail.com or 615.260-7784) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer.

### SUPPORT

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT:** If you have not already pledged online through the church website, or through the Giving tab in your Realm account, or with a physical card, there is still time. Please let us know how you plan to support the ministry and mission of 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian as soon as possible. Thank you for your commitment to 2<sup>nd</sup> Presbyterian Church.

## WELCOME VISITORS!

We are excited to have you with us today and hope you feel at home! We are honored you are here and pray you will feel God's presence in this place. If you do not have a church home, we would love for you to be a part of the 2nd Pres. Please let us know a bit about you by completing a Visitor's Card or by filling out your information in the Friendship Register. Children are welcome in worship. There is a **family worship area** down the front. There is also a "crying room" next door in the Library where the service is live streamed. **Children's Worship Bags** are available in the Narthex. Children ages 2 through 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to **Children's Church** following the children's time in worship. A **nursery is available** for infants and children through age 2. **Hearing Devices** are available if needed.

## CONNECT

**2ND WEDNESDAYS @ 2ND PRES:** This month's 2nd Wednesday program on December 13th is a Carol-Sing, along with a Reader's Theater recreation of the Christmas story. This will be an intergenerational activity. Come and sing your favorite Christmas carols and hear the Christmas story with a fun and hilarious twist!

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING:** This year we are returning to our pre-pandemic practice of caroling to some of our homebound members. We will meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> and travel together to some of the homes and nursing homes of our homebound members. Everyone is invited and welcome to participate in this wonderful ministry of spreading Christmas cheer to those we don't get to see on a regular basis!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN WILL MEET** on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 in the Fellowship Hall. All men and women of the church, both members and visitors, are welcome to attend. We are examining Jesus' encounters with those who were ostracized in Palestinian society. This month we will see how Jesus demonstrated his acceptance and care of a suffering leper in Luke 17:11-21.

## GROW

**THE FAITH SCIENCE & THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** meets in the Barbour Room at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. This class studies current events through the lens of faith using a weekly curriculum called *The Wired Word*.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** Join Kathy and Geoff Duggan for an informal Bible study on the Book of James on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. Bring your Bible and a sandwich and join us as we learn from each other through discussion of God's word. Everyone is welcome, but those who need childcare should text Kathy Duggan at 861-441-8683 prior to the meeting. We hope to see you there! NOTE: We will NOT meet on 12/13 and will meet Virtually only on 12/20.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS:** Our Advent Devotional is available in digital format in the "Members" section of our website. Printed copies are available in the Atrium and Narthex. If you need a large print version, they are available in the Church Office.

**ADVENT CALENDARS:** Each day during December we will post an activity or writing prompt on our social media pages to guide you in celebrating Advent. Printed copies of these prompts will also be available in the atrium and in the narthex.

## GO

**THE ARTS & CRAFTS TEAM** of the Presbyterian Women's is making winter hats for school children at West View Elementary. The GO Team is asking the congregation to contribute mittens or gloves for those students. Hats, mittens, and gloves can be hung on the Christmas tree in the Atrium or dropped in the bins in the Narthex. Thanks for keeping the West View students warm this winter!

## THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future Class (Barbour Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)

### Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>

- 12:00 p.m. Preschool Board Meeting (Zoom)

### Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women (Fellowship Hall)

### Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

- 11:30 a.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Readers Book Club (Off-site)
- 6:00 p.m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday Dinner & Program (Fellowship Hall)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

### Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Faith, Science & The Future Class (Barbour Room)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 1:30 p.m. Caroling (meet in parking lot)

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**Amy Cross, Caroline Buckner, Sue Jacox, Janis Smith, Arlys Milligan, and Brice Gilmer.**

\*Please notify the office if you are sick, in the hospital, or have a prayer request. Names remain on the prayer list 4 weeks unless requested to keep them on longer.

## SECOND PRESBYTERIAN STAFF

Ministers:	Members & Friends of the Congregation	
Teaching Elder:	Tim Reynolds	treynolds@2ndpres.org
Teaching Elder:	Sarah Morgan	smorgan@2ndpres.org
Director of Music & Arts:	Matthew Mimbs	mmimbs@2ndpres.org
Organist:	John Lasater	jdlatater77@gmail.com
Student Ministries Director:	Holly Grimm	hgrimm@2ndpres.org
Preschool Director:	Linda Sue Byrd	lsbyrd@2ndpres.org
Church Administrator:	Bonnie Smith	bsmith@2ndpres.org
Media Coordinator:	Marta P. Villalta	mvillalta@2ndpres.org
Pastor Emeritus:	Dr. Ed Carver	moxcar@eatel.net

facebook.com/SecondPresbyterianChurchKnoxville/ www.2ndpres.org

instagram.com/2ndpresknox/

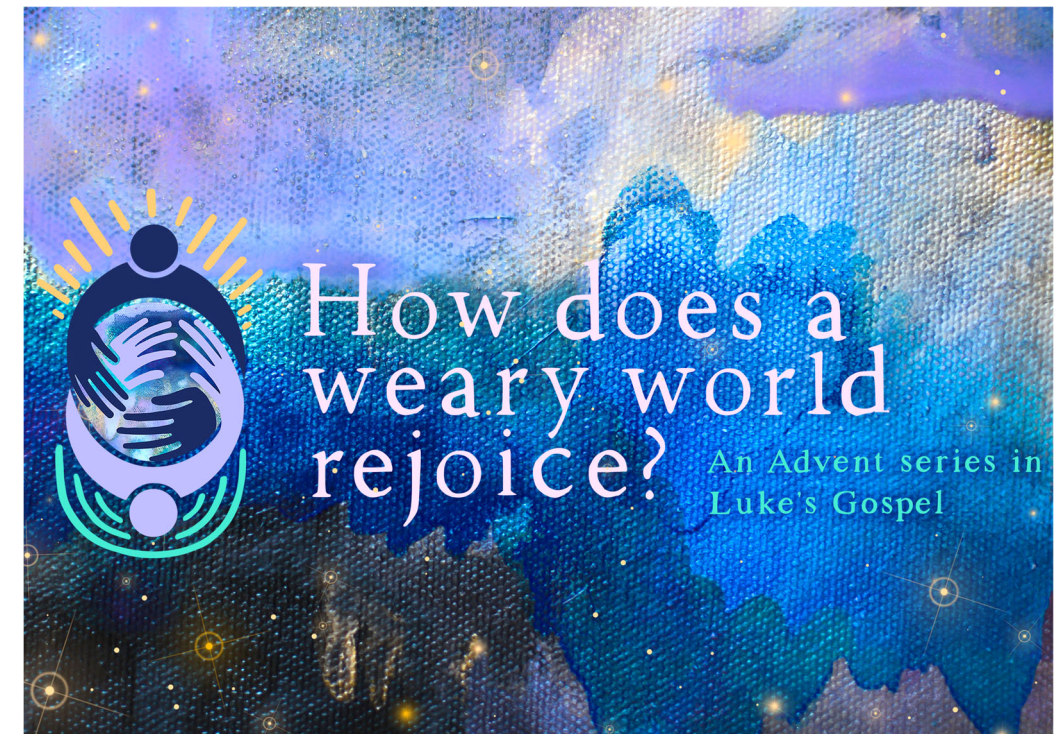
www.youtube.com/@2ndPresKnox/

**GIVE ONLINE:** Visit us at [www.2ndpres.org/give](http://www.2ndpres.org/give), text 2ndPresKnox to 73256, or scan the QR code.



**WI-FI NETWORK:** Our Wi-fi network is for use by anyone who visits the building.

The network is "Second Presbyterian Church", and the password is *Psalms100*.



# 2nd Pres Knox

WELCOMING + FAITHFUL + HOPEFUL

*Responding in gratitude to God's love and grace,  
we are a welcoming, faithful, and hopeful community,  
following Jesus and serving him in the world.*

Organized 1818

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*



*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

2829 Kingston Pike + Knoxville, TN 37919

Church Office: 865.523.2189

Preschool: 865.523.9997

Church Office Email: [bsmith@2ndpres.org](mailto:bsmith@2ndpres.org)

Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

December 10, 2023