

3^d Sunday of Advent

December 17th, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Joy to the World with Hallelujah Chorus* *arr. Caudill*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES *Arts & Crafts Team*

☩ 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
Joy beams forth from this candle, O weary world, rejoice!
Together let us praise him, O come and raise your voice**

☩ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our God can part the sea.
All: God can bring water from a rock and provide bread in the desert.
One: Our God can walk on water.
All: He can heal the sick and turn water into wine.
One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.
All: God hears our voice when we cry and is closer than our own breath.
One: There is nothing our God cannot do.
All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

☩ HYMN OF PRAISE *Joy to the World* #134

☩ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, somewhere in our childhood we outgrow our sense of awe and wonder. We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts. We praise those who have answers and assume that wonder is an answerless game. Forgive us for closing that door to you. Remind us that your kingdom belongs to children. Teach us the ways of awe and wonder so that our words will be words of praise. With hearts open wide, we pray. Amen.

☩ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns, at sunrises and sunsets, God marvels at us.
All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven. We belong to God. 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.

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

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

☩ HYMN OF PREPARATION *When God Delivered Israel* #73

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 Psalm 126 p. 572 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM *All Praise to Thee* *Elaine Hagenberg*

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 1:57-66 p. 57 NT

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED **Tim Reynolds**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING OUR LIVES TO GOD

Offertory *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring with The First Noel* *arr. Caudill*

☩ 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 in a God who knows our names, who counts the hairs on our heads, and carries the dreams in our hearts. We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation, and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different ways. We believe that awe and wonder, goosebumps and laughter, telling stories and paying attention, are all ways that we can say thank you to our creating, loving, and sustaining God. Therefore, we commit ourselves to moving through this world with eyes wide open, with porous hearts, and with grateful spirits. We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude, trusting that these things will draw us deeper into God's loving arms. We believe. We stand in awe. Thanks be to God!

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

☩ BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

☩ POSTLUDE *A Joyous Christmas* *arr. Leavitt*

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

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor
Sarah Morgan – Pastor
Charlene Cotton – Liturgist
Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts
John Lasater – Organist
2nd Presbyterian Chancel Choir

Ushers: Linda and Gerald Cook, Kim Hudgens, and Janis Smith

Technicians: Matthew Lowe (video); Matt Casey (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 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>
Dec 31	Luke 2:21-38 & 3:21-22	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Root Ourselves in Ritual</i>

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

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE is Sunday, Dec. 24th at 5:30 p.m. This will be a family-friendly service and children are invited to sit with their families. A nursery will be available for those 3 and under. Pre-service music will begin at 5:15 p.m.

USHERS NEEDED Are you interested in serving 2nd 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.

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 1st 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

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 THIS AFTERNOON at 1:30 p.m. to 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!

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: THIS WEEK WE ARE MEETING VIRTUALLY. THE ZOOM LINK IS ON THE HOME PAGE OF THE CHURCH WEBSITE.

ADVENT CALENDARS: Each day during December we are posting an activity or writing prompt on our social media pages to guide you in celebrating Advent. Printed copies of these prompts are also 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!

SUPPORT

THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be received this Sunday and next. By giving to the Christmas Joy offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by helping current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

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 2nd Presbyterian as soon as possible. Thank you for your commitment to 2nd Presbyterian Church and thanks to all who have already made a pledge!

THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Monday & Tuesday, Dec. 25 & 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

THIS WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Sunday, December 17th

- 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)

Wednesday, December 20th

- 2:00 p.m. Compassionate Cuisine (Atrium)
- 4:00 p.m. Deadline 2nd Edition Newsletter
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom Only)

Thursday, December 21st

- 10:00 a.m. Arts & Crafts (Room 227)
- 4:00 p.m. Vienna Light Orchestra (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. Vienna Light Orchestra (Sanctuary)

Sunday, December 24th

- 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Amy Cross, Sue Jacox, 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	jdlasater77@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

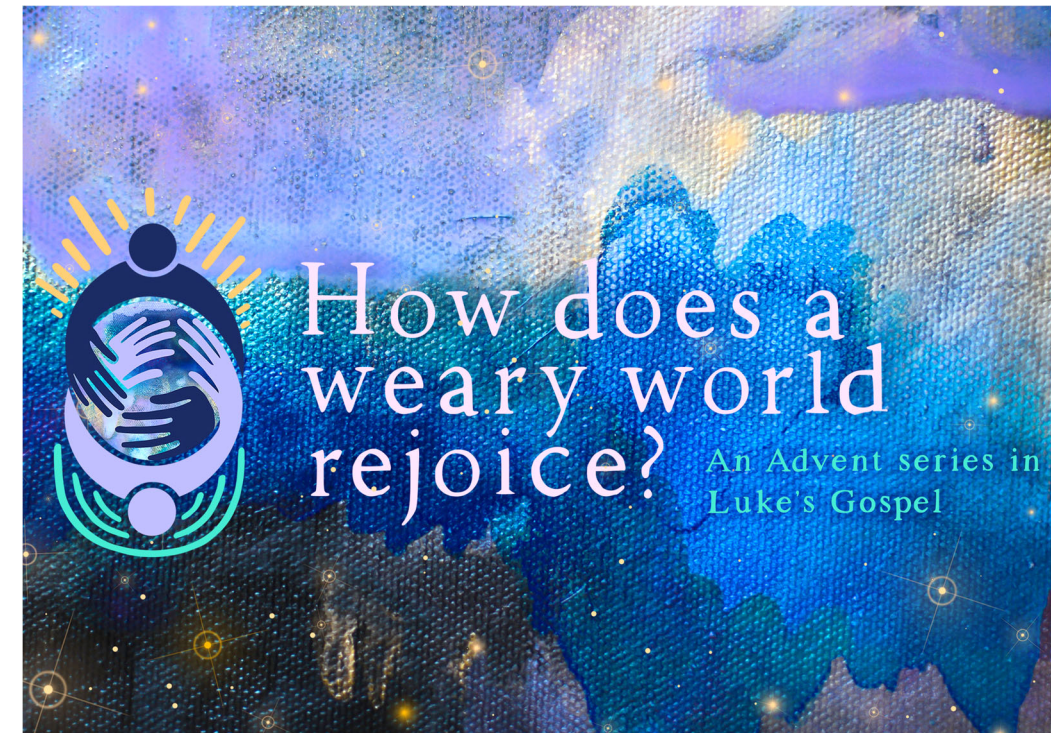
facebook.com/SecondPresbyterianChurchKnoxville/ www.2ndpres.org

instagram.com/2ndpresknox/

www.youtube.com/@2ndPresKnox/

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 *Psalm100*.

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



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

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

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