

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Trio on "Sussex Carol"*

*arr. Lasky*

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

*FSF Sunday School Class*

☩ 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  
Love radiates among us, O weary world, rejoice!  
Together let us praise him, O come and raise your voice**

☩ CALL TO WORSHIP

One: How does a weary world rejoice?

All: **We sing songs of hope. We allow hope to change us, to strengthen us. We tell the stories of what could be. We listen for God's word. We resist the temptation to give up or give in. We sing songs. We gather for worship. We hope. Against all odds, we hope.**

One: Friends, this is the day that the Lord has made and is still making.

All: **Let us worship our holy God.**

☩ HYMN OF PRAISE

*Love Has Come*

#110

☩ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, more days than not, hope feels like the rain. We try to hold onto it with cupped hands, but eventually, it slips right on through. Forgive us for holding hope so loosely. Forgive us for allowing the realities of today to define tomorrow. We know that this world needs people of hope, so today we pray: turn us into those people. Teach us how to sing songs of hope for the world. With open hearts we pray. Amen.**

☩ ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE

One: No matter how many times we let hope slip through our fingers, we still belong to God.

All: **We are loved by God. We are claimed by God. We are forgiven by God. We belong to God. We are blessed and sent to serve by God.**

One: This is the good news of the Gospel.

All: **Thanks be to God for his unending love. 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 1<sup>st</sup> grade are invited to Children's Church.

☩ HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Blest Be the God of Israel*

#109

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 42:10-16

p. 671 OT

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

*Light of the World*

*Karen Marrolli*

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Luke 1:67-79

p. 58 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

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*arr. Johnson*

☩ 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 hope can change the world. We believe that God uses ordinary people, like an unwed teenage mother, for extraordinary good.**

**And we believe that every ordinary person can make a difference, in service to our extraordinary God. We know that grief, fear, and suffering abound. We know that suffering quells joy and makes it harder to hope.**

**But we choose hope anyway. In the face of hardship, we hope together. We hope with God. We hope for a better world. This is our song. We believe; help our unbelief. Amen.**

☩ HYMN OF SENDING

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

#107

☩ BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

☩ POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo*

*arr. Martin*

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

## SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Tim Reynolds – Pastor

Sarah Morgan – Pastor

Bruce Foster – Liturgist

Matthew Mimbs – Director of Music & Arts

John Lasater – Organist

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

**Ushers:** Lauren Dodson, Liz Peebles, and Kay & Terry Weaver

**Technicians:** Dale Henley (video); Paul Sexauer (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 24 (am)	Luke 1:67-79	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 2:21-24	How Does a Weary World Rejoice? <i>We Root Ourselves in Ritual</i>
Jan 7	Colossians 1:1-8	Christianity Made Simple: <i>Theology</i>

**THE FLOWERS THIS WEEK** are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ileen Cheek, on her birthday, by her family.

**OUR CHRISTMAS EVE CAROL AND CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** is THIS EVENING 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 5:10 p.m.

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY WORSHIP IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL:** NEXT SUNDAY, we will worship in the Fellowship Hall instead of the Sanctuary. Worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month is a little less formal and gives us an opportunity to be together in a different way than usual.

**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 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

**FELLOWSHIP TIME:** All are invited to the Mary Chambers room (adjacent to the sanctuary) for coffee, cookies, and a time of fellowship following worship each week.

## GROW

**THE FAITH SCIENCE & THE FUTURE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** will not meet on December 24<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup>. Our class will resume on January 7<sup>th</sup>.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY:** The Wednesday night Bible study will not meet this week.

## 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 and atrium. Thanks for keeping the West View students warm this winter!

**THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** will be received this morning and this evening during worship. 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.

**THE GO TEAM** is looking for volunteers for KARM lunch on *Wed, Jan 17 from 11 am-1 pm*. 2nd Pres needs seven volunteers. If you haven't served at KARM before, please take this chance. If you have, please consider volunteering again. Contact Leonard Bailey at 865-207-4947 or lbailey@chartertn.net to sign-up or learn about more opportunities to serve in the next year.

## 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 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 24<sup>th</sup>

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

### Monday, December 25<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

Office will be closed.

### Tuesday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. FISH (Fellowship Hall)

### Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

9:15 a.m. Choir Practice (Sanctuary)  
10:30 a.m. Worship (Fellowship Hall)

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Gerry Turner, 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

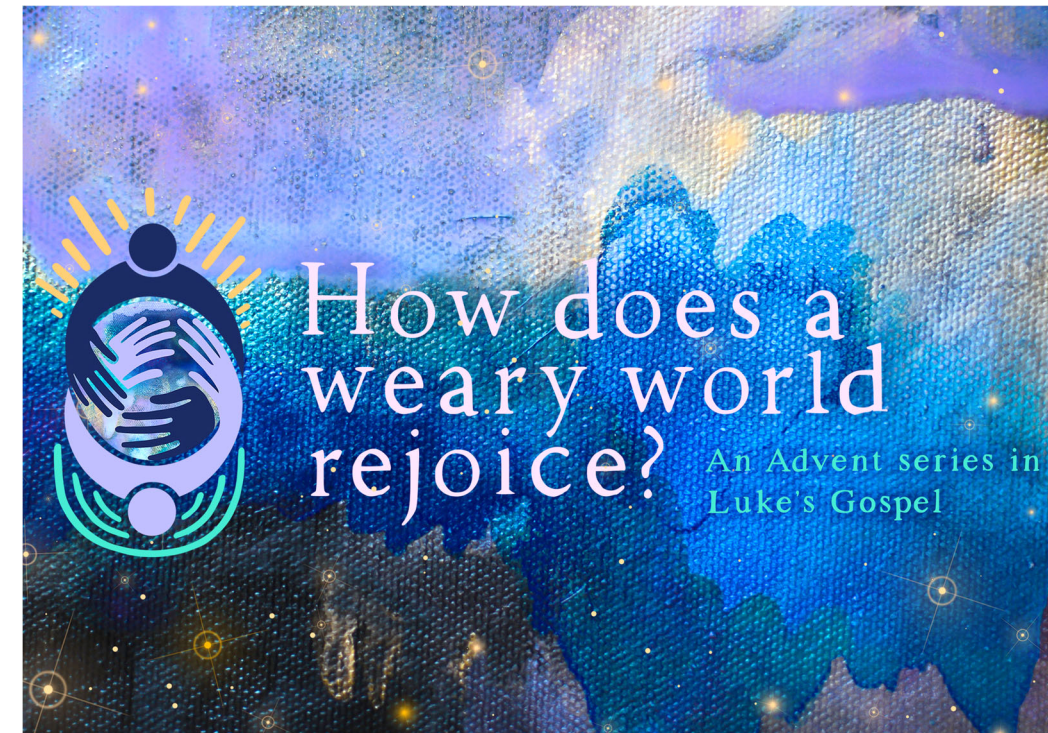
Ministers:	Members & Friends of the Congregation	
Teaching Elder:	Tim Reynolds	treynolds@2ndpres.org
Teaching Elder:	Sarah Morgan	smorgan@2ndpres.org
Director of Music & Arts:	Matthew Mimbs	mmimbs@2ndpres.org
Organist:	John Lasater	jldasater77@gmail.com
Student Ministries Director:	Holly Grimm	hgrimm@2ndpres.org
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](http://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*

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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 24, 2023