



How does a weary world rejoice?

We find joy in connection



"Comfort, O Comfort" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

2nd Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

Lessons in Connection

*It's been a long day,
long enough to complain,
long enough to wine and dine my
disappointment,
to give weariness
keys to the house.*

*But then you get the giggles
dancing with the dog in the kitchen.
Paws-sliding, tail-wagging,
side-cramping giggles.
I can hear it from across the house.*

*Your joy burrows its way
through the cracks in my armor
and then we are both laughing,
gulping for joyous, electric air.*

*And that's when I know—
if you grab my hand,
if you ask me to dance,
if our weary human souls can
make room for connection,
then we will survive.
Joy will take root.*

*Love will keep
her keys to the house.*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed/ A Sanctified Art LLC/Sanctifiedarts.org

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Wachet auf

Jacobus Kloppers

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Welcome to worship.

Welcome to worship.

I am glad you're here.

I am glad you're here.

Surely God is in this space.

Surely God is in this space.

I see God in your face.

I see God in your face.

Let us worship together.

Let us worship together.

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

How does a weary world practice peace?

By listening before we speak and saying

sorry when we need to.

By advocating for justice and caring for
our neighbor. By practicing Sabbath and
forgiving seventy times seven.

MESSAGE

We Find Joy in Connection

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

I Can Celebrate You

Bulletin p. 7

*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.**

**And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

**So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God.
Amen.**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

LORD'S PRAYER

Hymnal, p. 35

*Please pray the Lord's Prayer
in the language and wording most familiar to you.*

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Creator of the Stars of Night (Verse 2)

Hymnal, No. 84

When this old world drew on toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG

People Look East

Hymnal, No. 105

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

Family of faith,
as you leave this place,
you go into a weary world—
so speak tenderly.
Do the good that is yours to do.
Choose connection.
Hold onto hope.
And remember
that Christ took on flesh for you.
You are God's beloved.
So go rejoicing.
The world needs it.
Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Fantasy on Veni, Emmanuel

Robert Powell

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for December 3: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37.

The Food & Shelter items of the month for December **canned soup and crackers. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.**

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- 5 O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;
 make safe the way that leads on high,
 and close the path to misery.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.
- 6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
 our spirits by thine advent here;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
 all peoples in one heart and mind;
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

I Can Celebrate You

CRANHAM ("In the Bleak Midwinter")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Gustav Holst (1906)

I can cel - e - brate you, I can hold your joy
I can re - cog nize good fruit that you will bear
We can hold each oth - er in our joy and fear

When the load is crush - ing and you've lost your voice
When your own self doubt hides gifts you have to share
Know - ing that the Spir - it moves when we are near

I can cel - e - brate the pro - mise your life holds
I can re - cog nize your Christ-light deep with in
We can hold each oth - er, lift each oth - er up

When the wear - i - ness bears hea - vy on your soul
Ev - ery gift that God has sown wait - ing to be gin
Fill - ing one a - noth - er from the Spir - it's cup

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1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
 5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who

crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
 brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley

Peo - ple, look

a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
 nour - ish, that in course the flower may flour - ish.
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen.
 weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
 hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.

east and sing to - day:

Peo - ple, look east:

Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 Love, the Bird, is on the way.
 Love, the Star, is on the way.
 Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Peo - ple, look east: (Love is on the way.)