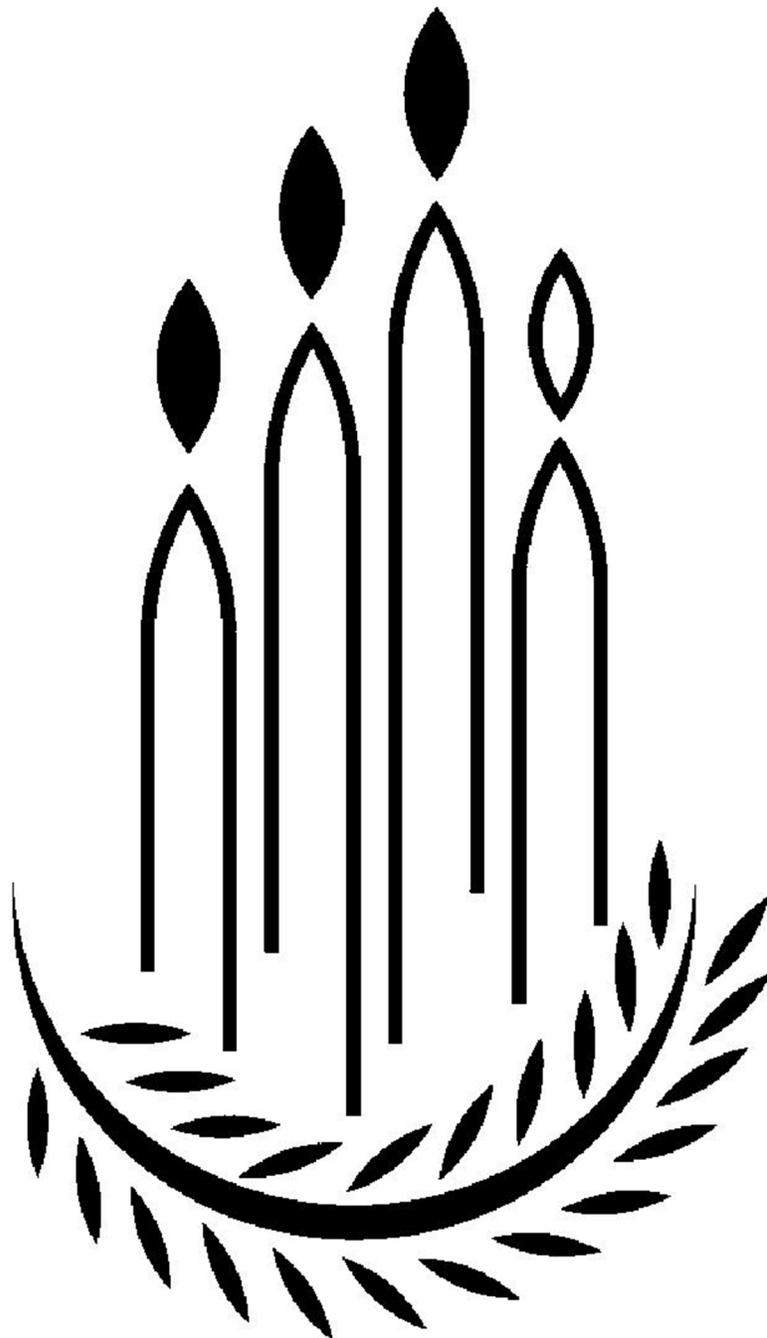


Sixth Presbyterian Church

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Sunday, December 12, 2021

Large Print Bulletin



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Sixth Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 12, 2021, 11:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent

The Sanctuary is a sacred space. The choral chimes will ring three times to let you know it is time to quiet your hearts, minds, and voices to prepare for worship.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Peace Candle

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent Three

Blessed are you Sovereign Lord, just and true: to you be praise and glory for ever!

Your prophet John the Baptist was witness to the truth as a burning and shining light. May we your servants rejoice in his light, and so be led to witness to him who is the Lord of our coming Kingdom,

Jesus our Saviour and King of ages. Blessed be God forever.

*Call to Worship

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord!

All: Let us sing praises to the Lord, for God has done glorious things.

Leader: Let us shout aloud and sing for joy,

All: For great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*Hymn

"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

96

*Prayer of the Day

Prayer of Confession

All: Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of Your glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care. We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely, those on the margins and those who are oppressed. We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord, through either our words or our deeds, neither through our actions nor our thoughts. Grant us Your mercy in forgiveness; and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by Your glorious light.

Silent Confession

96 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery life from sin; make
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our
 4 Stretch forth your hand; our health re - store, and

nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 straight the way for God with - in, and let us all our
 ref - uge and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 make us rise to fall no more. O let your face up -

for he brings glad ti - dings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.

This hymn shows how once-unconnected parts can work together. The text about John the Baptist was written in Latin in the 18th century and translated into English in the 19th century. Similarly, the 17th-century melody was adapted to its present form in the 19th century.

1 Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Assurance of Pardon and Commitment to Pass the Peace

*Gloria

Sung once in unison and twice in canon: Lectern side leads in round; Pulpit side joins after two measures.

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Moment for the Christmas Joy Offering

Prayer for Illumination

All: Holy Word, You are our guide and ultimate assurance. By Your Holy Spirit, open us to Your promises and commands and shower us again with the fire of Your love. AMEN.

Time for Children

Jenny Newman

Hebrew Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (pg. 1073)

Epistle Reading

Philippians 4:4-7 (pg. 242)

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-15 (pg. 13)

Sermon

"Disappointment Comes for Everyone"

Rev. Vincent Kolb

*Hymn

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

107

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

G Am7 G C D G

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the

C Am7 D7 G Am7 G C

her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
 el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
 world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
 win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with

D G Am7 D C G D

born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
 near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing; mu - sic to heal the
 free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
 light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and

G D Em Am D Em D7 G

weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
 bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
 forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
 love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill

C B7 Em Am7 D7 G C G

wide the heav - en - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
 raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

After attending a carol concert, the author and composer of this hymn was moved to create a contemporary, accessible carol that drew on the familiar images in a new way. There are echoes here of passages such as Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 7:14/Matthew 1:23, Isaiah 35:5-6, Isaiah 2:4.

*Affirmation of Faith

All: We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God's promise, the fulfillment of hope, the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever.

Pastoral Prayer

...God in our midst, renew us in Your love.

The Lord's Prayer

2019 Vatican Update

**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;
do not let us fall into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.**

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

"Rejoice in the Lord"

Anonymous

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your patience be known, throughout the land: the Lord is e'en at hand.

Be careful for nothing:

but in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen

Philippians IV, 4-7

*Doxology

607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures high and low,
Praise God, in Jesus fully known,
Creator, Word and Spirit One. Amen.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: Let us give thanks, for God is good and God's Love is everlasting!

All: Thanks be to God - whose love creates us!

Thanks be to God - whose mercy redeems us!

Thanks be to God - whose grace leads us into the future!

*Hymn

"Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates"

93

*Benediction

*Amen

564



A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of a series of chords and notes. The lyrics "A - men, a - men, a - men. A - men, a - men." are written below the staff, with the notes aligned to the syllables. The first phrase "A - men, a - men, a - men." is followed by a double bar line, and the second phrase "A - men, a - men." follows. The notes are primarily quarter and eighth notes, with some rests and a final cadence.

Postlude

**Those who can may stand*

793

O Christ, the Healer



1 O Christ, the heal - er, we have come to pray for
 2 From ev - ery ail - ment flesh en - dures our bod - ies
 3 How strong, O Lord, are our de - sires, how weak our
 4 In con - flicts that de - stroy our health we rec - og -
 5 Grant that we all, made one in faith, in your com -



health, to plead for friends. How can we fail to
 clam - or to be freed; yet in our hearts we
 knowl - edge of our - selves! Re - lease in us those
 nize the world's dis - ease; our com - mon life de -
 mu - ni - ty may find the whole - ness that, en -



be re - stored when reached by love that nev - er ends?
 would con - fess that whole - ness is our deep - est need.
 heal - ing truths un - con - scious pride re - sists or shelves.
 clares our ills. Is there no cure, O Christ, for these?
 rich - ing us, shall reach the whole of hu - man - kind.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This prayer for wholeness of body, mind, and spirit considers not only the infirmities of individuals but also those of localities, societies, and nations. In the midst of such widespread need, worshiping communities are called to continue Christ's healing work in the world.

Church Information and Announcements

We are an open and affirming community of faith in Jesus Christ. At home in an urban neighborhood of many faiths, we acknowledge that we are not alone on the path to understanding God. In worship, study, and fellowship, we celebrate our Presbyterian roots and find joy in our diversity. We strive for the grace to love one another as we seek a deeper understanding of life in the Spirit, working for justice and serving as stewards of God's wondrous creation.

Sixth is a More Light Church: A network of people seeking and affirming the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people of faith in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Inclusive Language: Words matter. Jesus Christ, the living Word, reached out to all people to bring them into God's fold. The kingdom of God includes all people; therefore our language should reflect the inclusivity and equality among the people of God. To that end, when possible, we seek to eliminate the inherent bias of the English language toward the masculine gender without altering passages that reflect the historical situation of ancient patriarchal culture, out of which the Bible originated.

Masks: EVERYONE, vaccinated or not, is asked to wear a mask while inside the building.

Prayer Cards: If you would like to have a person named and prayed for during the pastoral prayer, please fill out one of the white cards by the bulletins/ushers and give it to Vincent prior to the service.

Recording Notice: This service is being livestreamed and is available online in perpetuity

Seating: While distancing is not required, we do encourage people to leave space as attendance allows and to be mindful of people's continued need for distance

Registration: We are glad for all who have come! Please fill out the friendship pad and leave it in the pew. We will use that information for contact tracing as needed.

COVID Exposure: If you test positive for COVID and you have been in the building within the two weeks prior, please contact the office immediately so that we can conduct contact tracing

Church Nursery: Nursery care for infants and toddlers is available during the worship service. Our childcare staff are required to be vaccinated and masked.

Sunday School and Extended Session: Sunday school for children in preschool through third grade is held during Extended Session each week during worship. Masks are required for all participants and our teachers and staff are vaccinated.

Virtual Sunday School: There are two options for virtual Sunday School. Students of all ages are invited to join Jenny Newman on Zoom to explore our weekly Sunday school lessons on

Sundays at 10 am and Thursdays at 6 pm. Lessons will last about 30 minutes and links to the Zoom sessions will be sent weekly via email.

Adult Sunday School: Bill Guy's class meets Sundays at 9:30 am over Zoom. Contact Bill to receive the Zoom link and to be added to his email list.

Water of Baptism: Each Sunday we pour water into our baptismal font to reaffirm the covenant that God makes through this community of faith

Candles for Peace, Justice and Personal Prayers: You welcome to come forward to light a candle anytime during worship when words are not being spoken. Please maintain physical distance while waiting your turn.

Children and Candles: We love having children participate in the service, but we ask that—in order to maintain everyone's safety—children not go forward to light candles at this time.

Fellowship: We are not providing coffee or other refreshments after worship at this time

Today's Service: Phyllis Rupert (liturgist); Kirk Howe (livestreaming); Patty Halverson, Chris McAdams, Alice Scales (ushers)

Bible Study: Pastor Vincent's weekly Bible study of the lectionary texts meets Wednesdays at 10:30 am over Zoom. Contact the office to be added to the email update list.

Next Week's Readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 80:1-7; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Next Week's Message: "None of Us Does This Alone"

Carols on the Steps: Everyone is invited to gather on the front steps of the church to share hot chocolate and Christmas Carols at 4 pm, Sunday, December 12. (Alternate date for inclement weather will be Sunday, December 19.)

COOKIES!!!: The Fellowship Committee will be packaging to-go bags of cookies to take home on Christmas Eve! YOU CAN HELP! If you are so inclined, please bring 2-3 dozen homemade cookies to church by the close of Worship on Sunday, December 19 (you can place them on the large table in the big kitchen downstairs). We will be packaging that afternoon and freezing for the wait until Christmas Eve. Please stick with cookies that will still look good after they have been in a cellophane bag (in other words, no sticky or goo-ily iced cookies). THANK YOU!

Stewardship Campaign Update: We are currently at 86% of our Campaign Goal of \$347,609. If you have not already submitted your pledge, please either mail in your pledge card, fill out the form on the church's website, or e-mail Amy (office@sixthchurch.org) with your 2022 Stewardship Pledge amount. Please remember that if you make your contributions by e-Give, we still need to know your pledge amount, since e-Give does not notify us. Thank you for being On This Road Together.

Upcoming Meetings and Events in (and around) the Church

Sunday, December 12

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Sunday School (10 am, Zoom)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
Carols on the Steps (4 pm, Forbes entrance)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 13

NA – Make a Change (7 pm)

Wednesday, December 15

Bible Study (10:30 am, Zoom)
Session (7 pm, Zoom)

Thursday, December 16

Sunday School (6 pm, Zoom)
Youth Group (6:30 pm, Zoom)
Choir rehearsal (7:30 pm)

Saturday, December 18

NA – Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, December 19

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Sunday School (10 am, Zoom)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Monday, December 20

NA – Make a Change (7 pm)

Tuesday, December 21

Earth Care Committee (7 pm, Zoom)

Wednesday, December 22

Bible Study (10:30 am, Zoom)

Thursday, December 23

Choir rehearsal (7:30 pm)

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Service (7 pm, in-person and streaming)

Saturday, December 25

NA – Squirrel Hill Group (7:30 pm)

Sunday, December 26

Adult Sunday School (9:30 am, Zoom)
Worship (11 am, in-person and streaming)
NA – Men's Meeting (8 pm)

Session Members

Class of 2021/2022

Kit Ayars
Carol Emerson
Linda May
Jan Myers-Newbury
Phyllis Rupert

Class of 2022/2023

Larry Chan
Frank Davoli
Beth Hazlett
Pam Howe
Mary Lang

Class of 2023/2024

Joe Ashenden
Lori King
Tom Juring
Greg Winner

Deacons

Class of 2021/2022

Brenda Flores
Sharon Manley
Kathi Robinson-Dassel
Dana Thompson

Class of 2022/2023

Kyle Esbin
Lynn Kawaratani
Eliot Kennedy
Judy Schryer

Class of 2023/2024

Martha Funderburgh
Patty Halverson
Gwen Harcar

Vincent Kolb, *Pastor*

Jenny Newman, *Director of Children and Youth Ministry*

Gail Luley, *Music Director*

Amy Whipple, *Office Manager*

Harry Kirk, *Building Administrator*

Myra Kazanjian, *Parish Associate*

John S. McCall, *Pastor Emeritus*