



How does a weary world rejoice?

We acknowledge our weariness



"Annunciation to Zechariah" by Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

1st Sunday in Advent

December 3, 2023

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

Wade In

*Over time
wind and water
will sand down the edges of a stone.
For humans,
our wind and water
is the grief of the world.*

*Stay here long enough
and pieces of you
will be pressed upon
by life's never-ending stream.
It's enough to make you weary.
It's enough to make you question.
It's enough to make you quiet.
And yet, the stream continues.*

*So do not be afraid to stand in that water.
Wade in. Soak the hem of your jeans.
Drip wet footprints through every room in your house.
Let the water stains tell your story.
And when your body grows weary of swimming,
name the stream.
Acknowledge your weariness.
For eventually,
you will pick flowers from
the opposite bank.
And over and over again, we'll tell this story.
And over and over again,
a weary world will rejoice.*

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

PRELUDE Praeludium on Veni, Emmanuel Marilyn Biery

*CALL TO WORSHIP Vince Leseney

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship our loving God.

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

How does a weary world hope?

**By telling stories of hope,
by lighting candles in the night,
and planting seeds in the winter that
will bloom in the spring.**

By praying for children as they grow, and
picking up trash on the sidewalk.

**By insisting that small acts can make a
difference.**

There are a million ways to practice hope.
So today we light the candle of hope as a
reminder and a charge.

**With God's help, may we bring hope
into a weary world. Amen.**

*SONG OF PRAISE Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Hymnal, No. 83

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.
Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.
Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.
Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.
Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

(Time of silent reflection)

So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE Gloria (refrain only) Hymnal, No. 113

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Nick Lindley

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 470

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Call to Light

SCRIPTURE READING

Page No. 830

Luke 1:1-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

We Acknowledge Our Weariness

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Jesus, Lover of My Soul

Hymnal, No. 440

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.**

**We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead,
who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,
movements and Spirit.**

**And so we return to this space.
We bring our joy and our weariness
like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.**

**Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.
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 1)

Hymnal, No. 84

Creator of the stars of night,
your peoples everlasting light.
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
We pray you, hear us when we call.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*SENDING SONG

Weary World Rejoice

Bulletin p. 7

*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

Benedictus

Alec Rowley

*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.

We have another gathering planned **today**, but this will be different. Instead of a potluck, the food **will be provided. It will be a simple soup and salad lunch**, provided by the deacons. We want to make it easy because we WANT YOU THERE. Following lunch, there will be a presentation on the state of the church.

83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

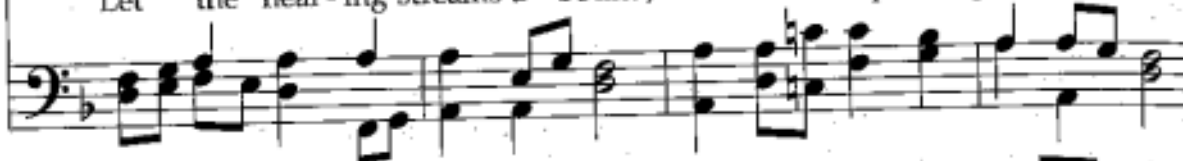




1 Je - sus, lov - er of my soul, let me to thy bos - om fly,
 2 Oth - er ref - uge have I none; hangs my help-less soul on thee.
 3 Thou, O Christ, art all I want; more than all in thee I find.
 4 Plen - teous grace with thee is found, grace to cov - er all my sin.



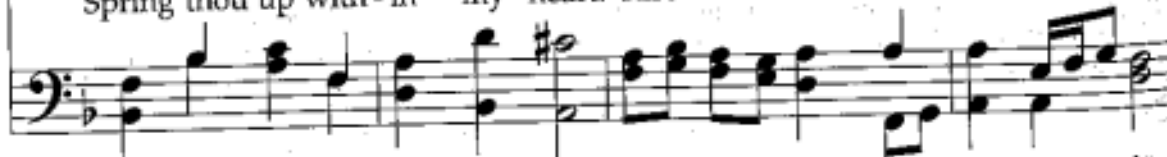
while the near - er wa - ters roll, while the temp - est still is high,
 Leave, ah! leave me not a - lone; still sup - port and com - fort me.
 Raise the fall - en, cheer the faint, heal the sick, and lead the blind.
 Let the heal - ing streams a - bound; make and keep me pure with - in.



Hide me, O : my Sav - ior, hide, till the storm of life is past.
 All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring.
 Just and ho - ly is thy name; I am all un - righ - teous - ness.
 Thou of life the foun - tain art; free - ly let me take of thee:



Safe in - to the ha - ven guide. O re - ceive my soul at last!
 Cov - er my de - fense - less head with the shad - ow of thy wing.
 False and full of sin I am; thou art full of truth and grace.
 Spring thou up with - in my heart. Rise to all e - ter - ni - ty.



Weary World Rejoice

STILLE NACHT ("Silent Night")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Franz Xaver Gruber (1818)

Wea - ry world,
Wea - ry world,
Wea - ry world,
Wea - ry world,
God's own vine
bro - ken and bruised
out of hope
wait - ing still
Tears our on - ly
Name of God
Dis - be - lief is
Hold - ing our

bread and wine
so mis-used
how we cope
breath un - til
Cry - ing out to
Can we see the
We've left faith to
Christ re - turns in
be re-stored
light of Christ
rot and rust
truth and grace

Des - perate for a
Glow - ing in each
Dreams are cov - ered in
Will we re - cog - nize
break from war
per - son we spite?
lay - ers of dust
his face?

Wea - ry world re - joice
Wea - ry world re - joice
Wea - ry world re - joice
Wea - ry world re - joice
Come and raise your voice
Come and raise your voice
Come and raise your voice
Come and raise your voice

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