



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We allow ourselves
to be amazed*



"Watercourses" by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Memorial Presbyterian Church

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

HOW DOES A WEARY WORLD REJOICE?

Awe

*The birds could spend their lives
on telephone wires,
feet under them,
sure and steady.
Or they could open their wings,
leave the ground,
and let the wind carry them home.
I want to be like the birds.
I want an open heart,
open arms,
open eyes.
Give me a sky view,
for I do not want to miss a thing.*

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Johannes Brahms

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

**He can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

How does a weary world practice joy?

**By dancing, and throwing birthday
parties.**

By hanging Christmas lights, and holding
sleepy babies. By singing loudly, and
looking for good news.

**By telling the story of Jesus, and
showing up for our community.**

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

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

*SONG OF PRAISE Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn Hymnal, No. 107

*CONFESSION AND PARDON Vince Leseney

**Holy God,
Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow awe.
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 the kingdom of God belongs to children.
Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,
when we find ourselves speechless,
our first words will be words of praise.
With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.**
(Time of silent reflection)

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**We are forgiven.
We are loved.
We belong 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

MOMENT FOR MISSION Charlotte Lovett

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING Tim Thiessen

SCRIPTURE READING Page No. 499

Psalm 126
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM Light of Joy

SCRIPTURE READING Page No. 832

Luke 1:57-66
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming Hymnal, No. 129

*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, sustaining, and loving God.

**Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world
with eyes wide open,
with porous hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
**trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into God's loving
arms.**

We believe.

**We stand in awe.
Thanks be to God!**

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 3)

Hymnal, No. 84

At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG

Isn't It Amazing?

Bulletin p. 7

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*POSTLUDE

Freu dich Sehr

Gerald Near

*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 24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Luke 1:46b-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.

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.

107 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn



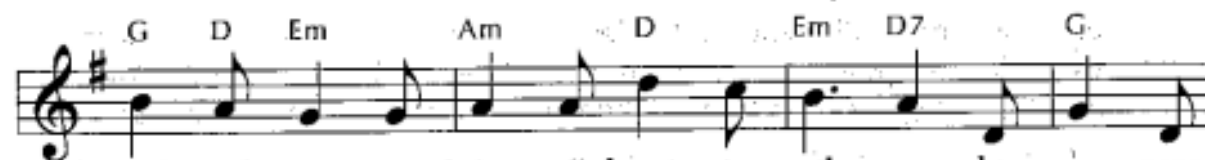
1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



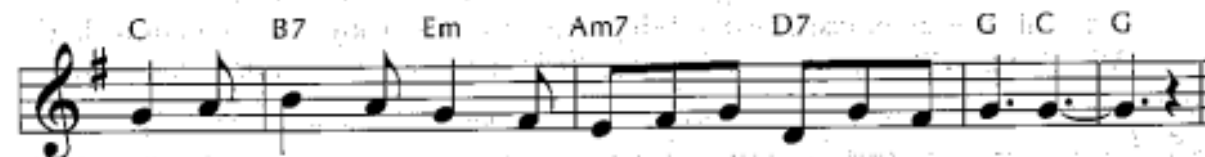
her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum - ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so qui - et and
win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



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



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

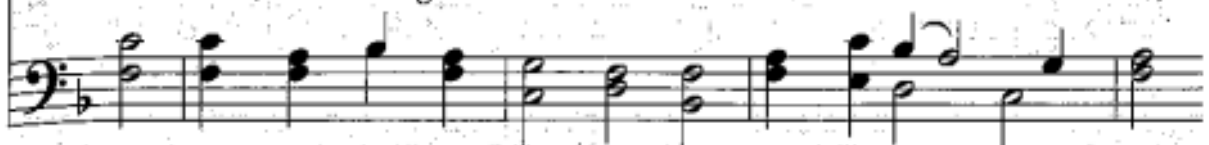


wide the heaven - ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

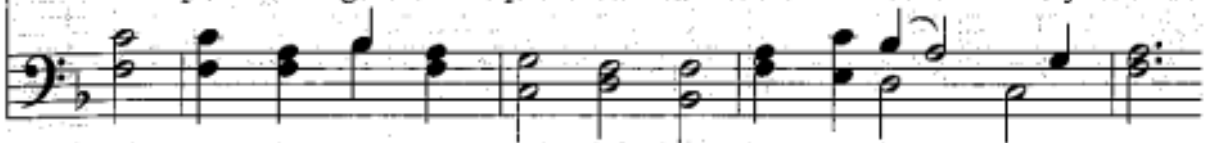
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming 129



1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,



of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing, by faith - ful proph - ets sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery-where.



It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore for us a
 En - fleshed, yet ver - y God, from sin and death he



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.



Isn't It Amazing

GLORIA ("Angels We Have Heard on High")

Text: Anna Strickland (2023)

Music: Traditional French Carol, arr. Edward S. Barnes (1937)

Seeds with - in the so - il grow Deep un - der the
Deep - er, deep - er grow the roots Reach - ing up - ward
Cell by cell a plant is built Toward the sun the
Ev - en when the earth seems bare Plant the seeds of

ground be - low the shoots Plant - ed when the earth was bare
grow the shoots Through the earth they weave and snake
leaves will tilt Nour - ished by the sun and rain
hope with care If you wat - er in the drought

No life show - ing an - y - where Glo -
Un - til so - il starts to break Glo -
To bring forth its seed and grain Glo -
You will reap with joy - ous shout Glo -

ri - a Is - n't it a - ma - zing? Glo -

ri - a Is - n't it a - ma - zing?