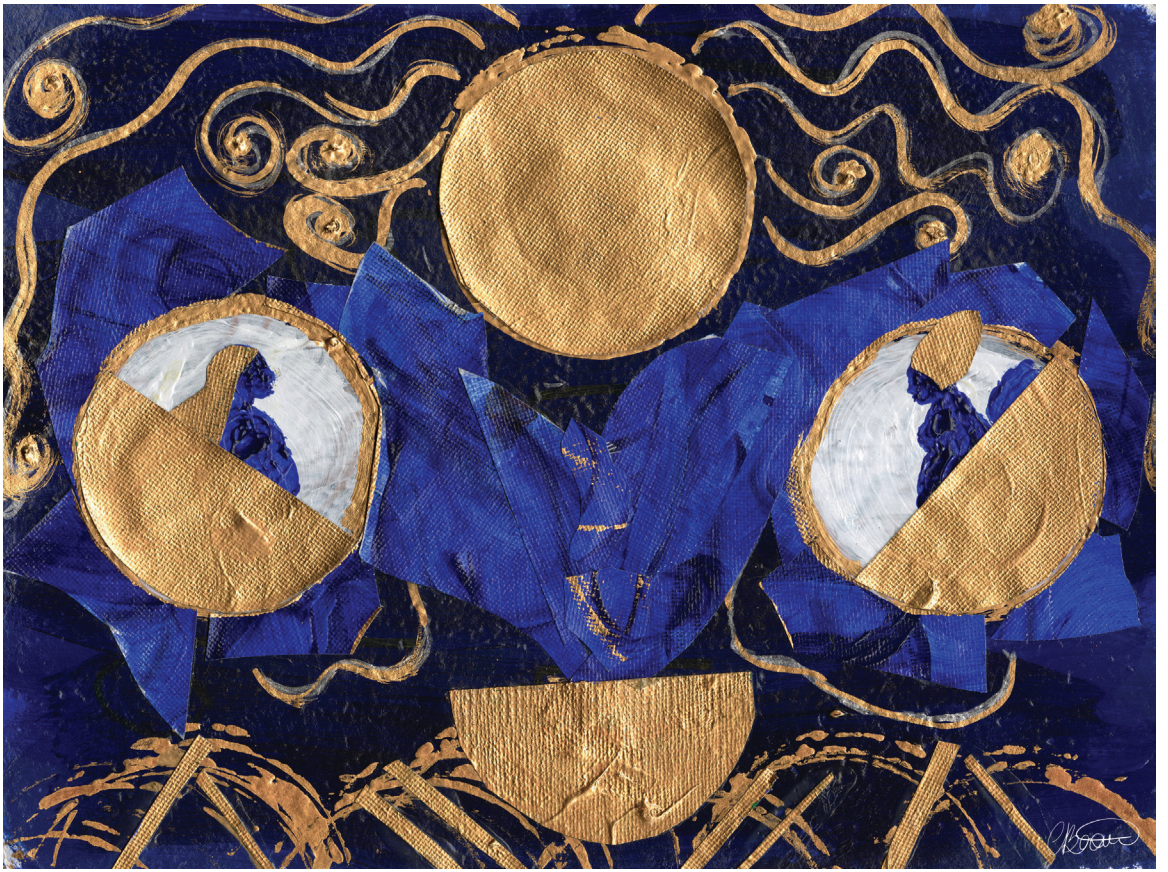
Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



December 18, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able
Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Bells: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Friends, the Beloved is coming.

The lowly will be lifted up

Bells

The promise is about to be fulfilled.

People who are hungry will eat their fill.

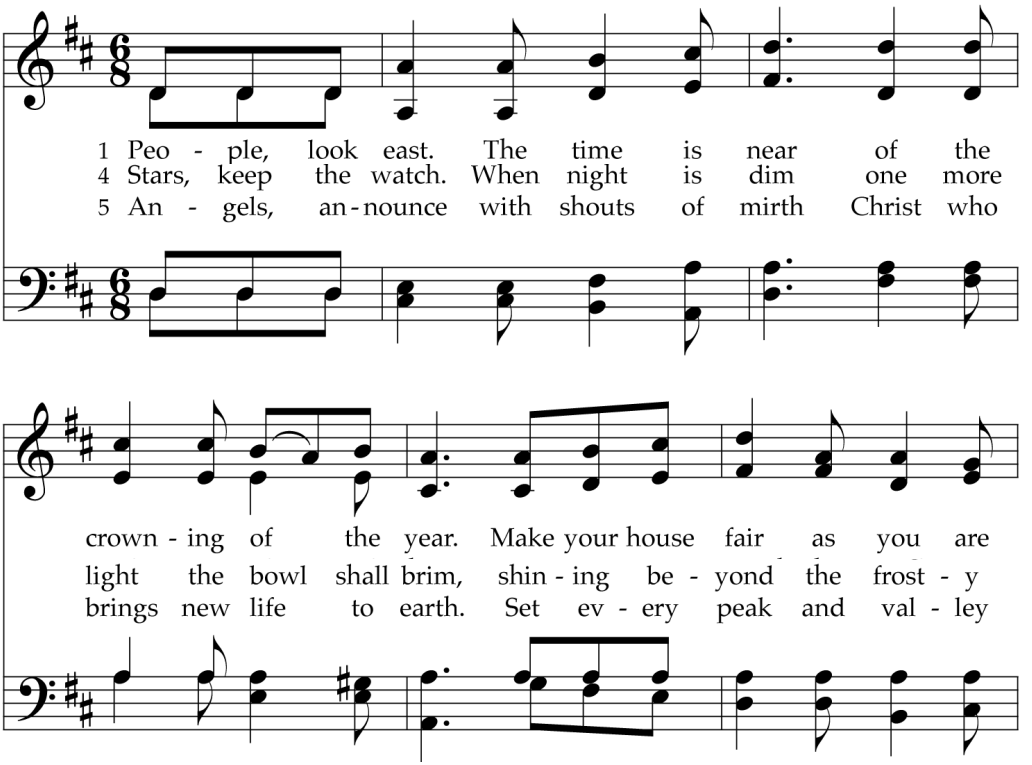
Bells

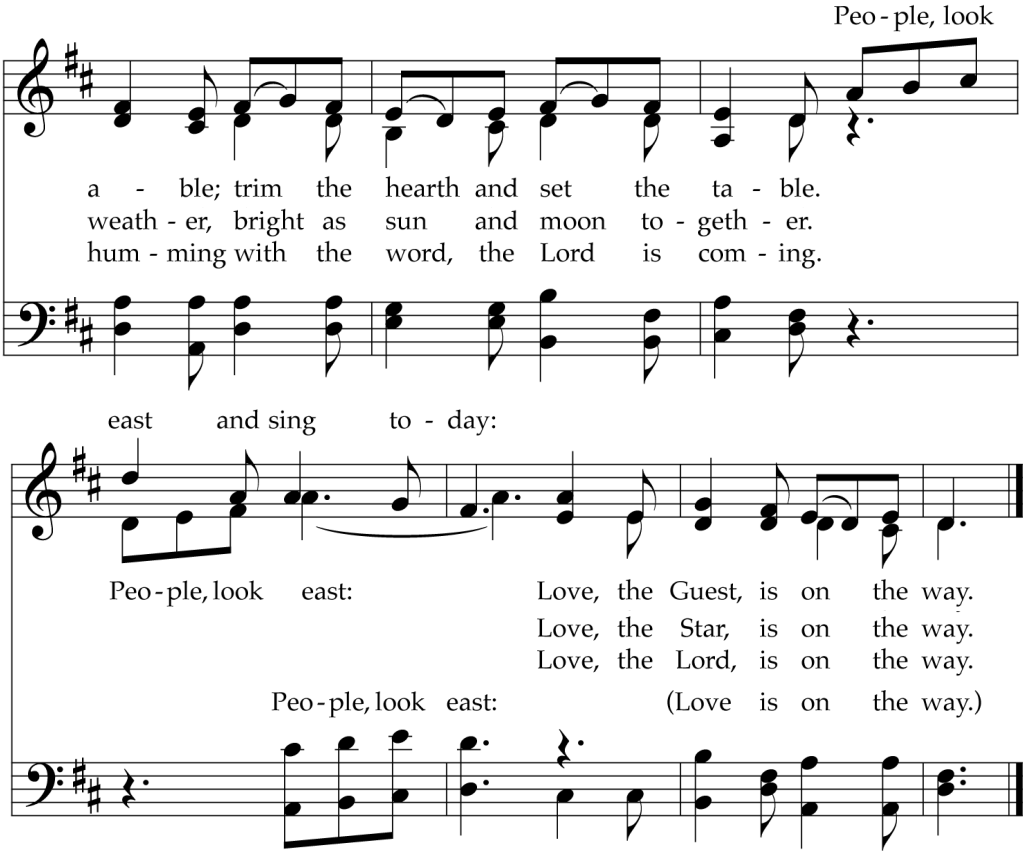
Generations still unborn will see God's Light.

Let us rejoice in God our Savior.

Bells

OPENING HYMN GTG 105 People, Look East *vs. 1, 4, and 5*





Printed with Permission CCLI #2748883

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE *Jane and Ed Burgstaler*

People aged two to eighty-two were asked,"What makes you feel loved?" From the voices of different generations, hear the answers; then ask yourself the same question. When the mic comes to you, you may say a few words or pass it along.

Voice 1: Handwritten notes.

Voice 2: Hot chocolate.

1: Being invited in.

2: Dancing with my partner in the kitchen.

1: Laughing together.

2: Surprise phone calls.

1: Making music with other people.

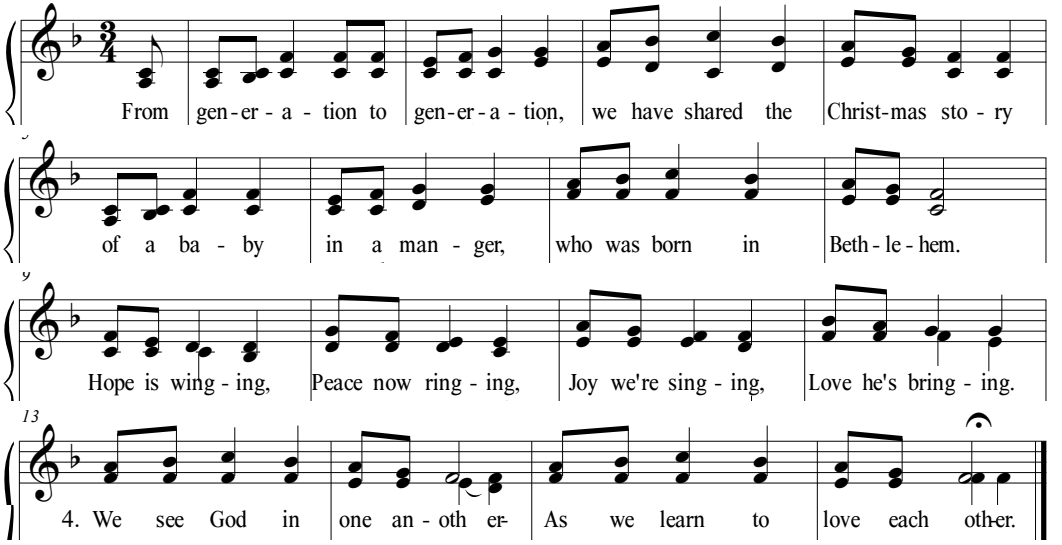
2: Hugs.

1: Family of faith, what makes you feel loved?

Today we light the candle of love as a reminder that from the very first generation, God has surrounded us with love.
The fourth Advent candle is lit.

In a lonely world, let this light shine bright. From generation to generation, we are held in God's love. Thanks be to God for that good news. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE From Generation to Generation *vs. 4*



Words: Debi Burns, using material from "From Generation to Generation"© A Sanctified Art|A Sanctified Art.org
Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY *public domain*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
One of the greatest gifts and challenges of faith is that we cannot be Christian alone. Let us lean into the ties that bind and pray to our merciful God.

God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid,
she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house.
Elizabeth greeted her with joy and showered blessings on her.
How often do we have the same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked and the lights off?
How often do we shower judgments instead of blessings?
Gracious God, forgive us for our failures.
When we see our neighbor, let us see you.
Silence for reflection

This is what we know–God delights in us.
God throws open the door and says, "Come home! There's room for you here."
And in that moment, we are blessed, we are forgiven, we are loved.
We are seen, healed, and welcomed.
Rejoice: You are saved by grace.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION
God of all, we are a mixed bag of distracted and forlorn, eager and anxious.
We hope that you might move through the obstacle course
we build up around our heart. For at the end of the day,
all we want is to know that we are not alone, that you are always near.
Pull us close and tell us your story of unbelievable good news.
We are listening. We are grateful. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:39-45, 56-58
In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

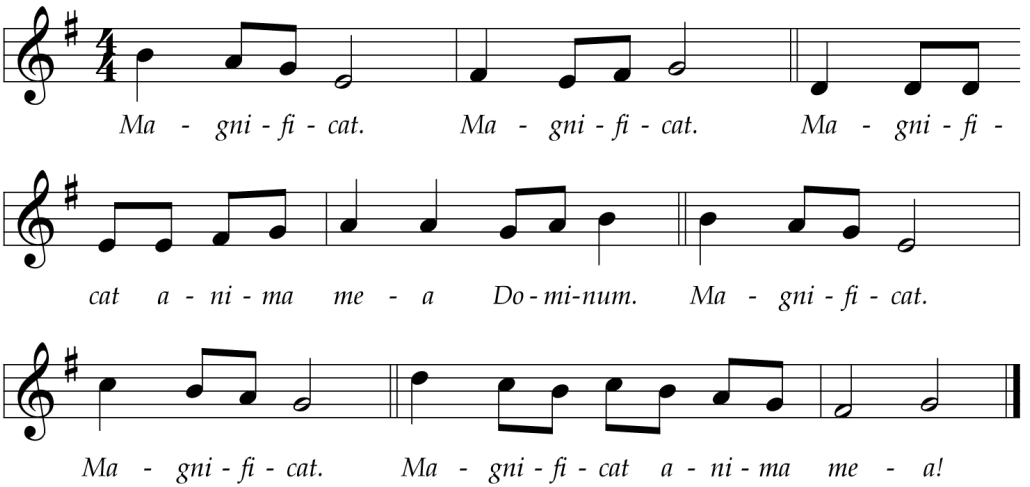
And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home. Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

SPECIAL MUSIC *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* Jubellation Handbell Choir
arr. Lloyd Larson

GOSPEL READING Luke 1:46-55
And Mary and Elizabeth sang,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

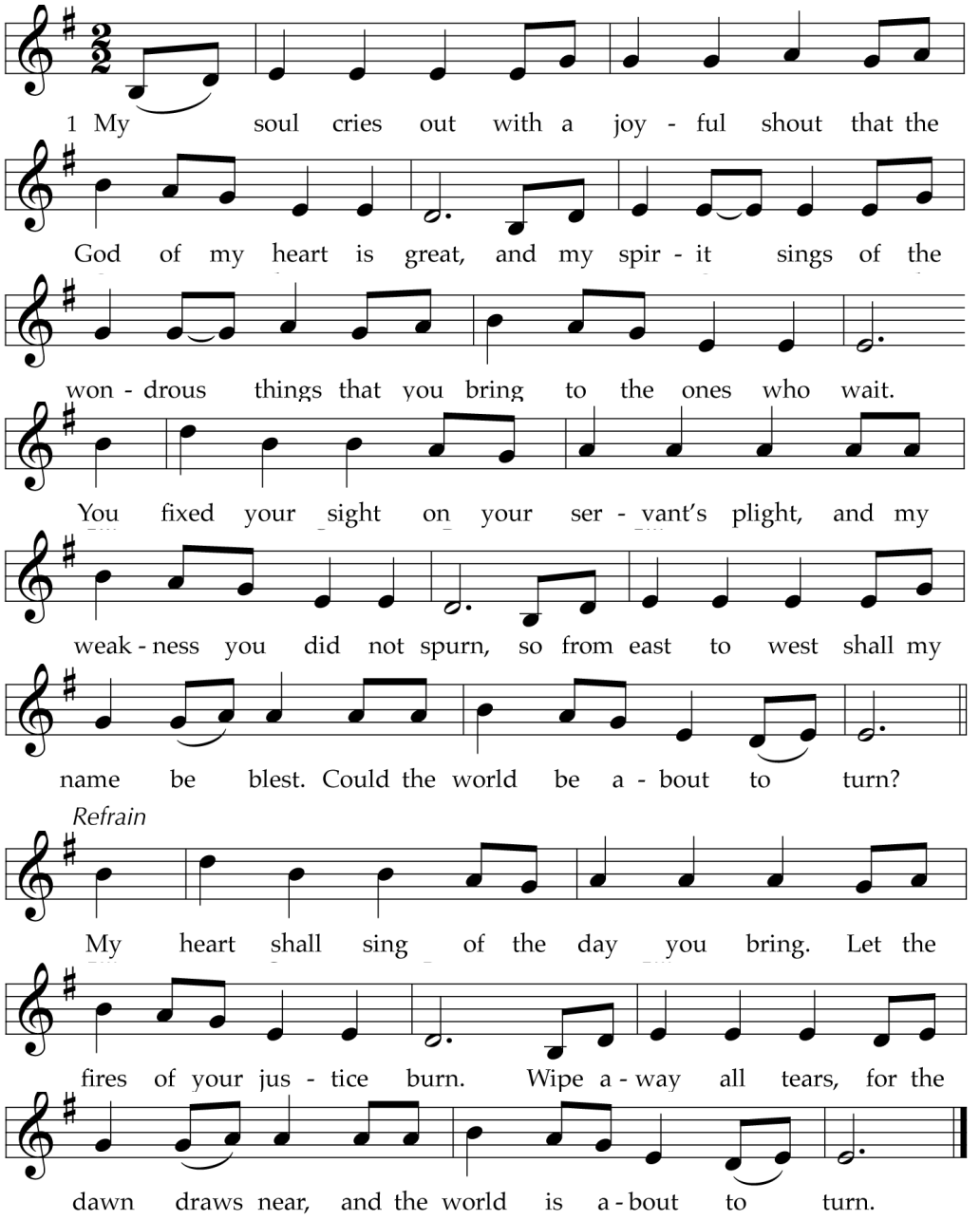
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

SUNG RESPONSE GTG 646 Magnificat



SERMON *Two Mothers and One Brave New World* Pastor Jan

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 100 Canticle of the Turning *vs. 1 and 4*

(4) Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast.
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.
(Refrain)

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,

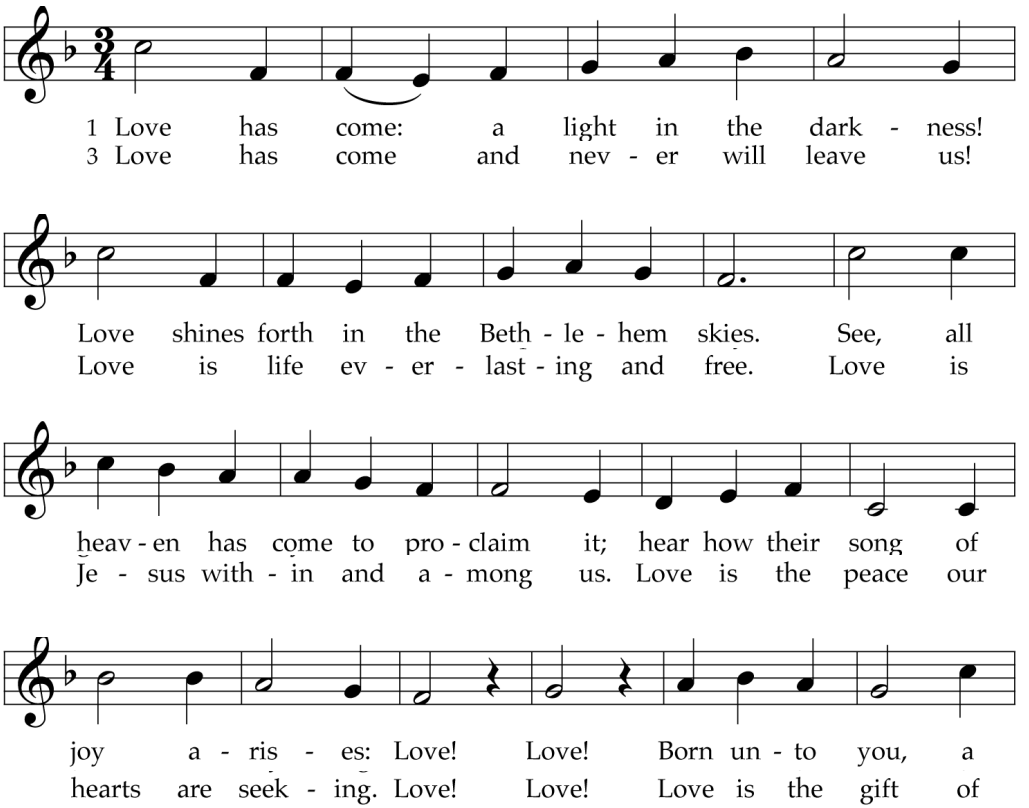
hear our prayer.

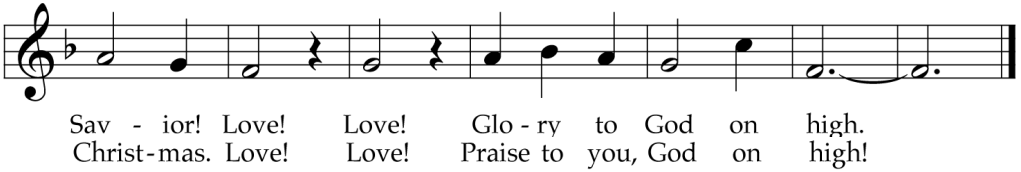
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 110 Love Has Come *vs. 1 and 3*



Printed with Permission CCLI #2748883

*ADVENT CHARGE AND BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

Amen. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Veni, Veni Emmanuel - Ero Cras ("I will come")* CPC Choir
18th C. Latin Hymn, 9th C. origin; arr. Michael John Trotta

O come, O come. "I will come!"

O come, O come, the "I am" that is with us.
Break the bond of the captive people who mourn in exile,
deprived of the incarnation of the Father.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I am" will be born for you.

O come, gatherer of all nations. Come to make all whole,
To save your servants from their separateness.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I am" will be born for you.

O come, light of life (Morning Star), to shine on us by your coming.
Dispel the clouds of night, drive away the shadows of death.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The great "I am" will be born for you.

O come, O come. "I WILL COME!"

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, December 18
Fourth Sunday in Advent
8:45 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
10:35 am Nominating Committee Meeting
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Monday, December 19
Office Closed

Tuesday, December 20
12:00 pm Conference Call *
12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
6:30 pm Session Meeting

Wednesday, December 21
6:30 am Prayer Group

Thursday, December 22
5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Saturday, December 24
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Onsite and Online

Sunday, December 25
NO CPC Worship December 25
2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Online Worship:
Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am
https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

*** Tuesday's Conference Call**
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#

Church Staff

Pastor	Rev. Jan Wiersma
Choir Director	Meg Cain
Handbell Director	Judy Kereakos
Pianist	Glenna Muir
Custodian	Nancy Sanford
Office Manager	Stephanie Pasch

Serving in Worship Today

Liturgist	Sue Chipman
Special Music	Jubellation Handbells CPC Choir
Candlelighters	Jane and Ed Burgstaler
IT Support	Bruce Felger

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, a candlelight service of lessons and carols at 6 pm (please note the time).This will take the place of a Sunday, Christmas morning, service. Volunteers to read the lessons are welcome! Speak to Pastor Jan.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughters Jenny
and Elissa
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Judy Robb's brother, Dan
Jennifer Hall
Ron Murray
Stephanie Pasch's daughter, Caitlyn
Dick and Nancy Massaro

To be added to the prayer list, please contact Pastor Jan at pastor@cpcrochester.org.
For emergency pastoral care, call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.

Coffee & Conversation

COFFEE HOUR ANYONE?
The worship committee is suggesting that CPC restart the coffee hour after Sunday service with the guidelines below.

- The individual(s) who host coffee hour will be the only individual(s) serving to minimize handling of items.
- Coffee hour hosts will wear a mask and gloves while serving.
- It is strongly encouraged that items be individually wrapped.
- Disposable cups will be used.

Sign up for a Sunday – in the narthex or by contacting the church office.

The CPC handbells, hand chimes and related equipment used in the worship service were purchased with funds donated initially in 2004 by the Duane Olson family and, also, continuing donations from them and others.

In addition, thank you to Charter House for loaning CPC five music stands and the First Presbyterian Church for loaning CPC a singing bell stick for today.

Have you ever thought about playing handbells? It's fun, and easier than you might think. The Jubellation Choir plays periodically so rehearsals are not weekly but specially scheduled to coincide with performances. You are cordially invited to try it out!

The Fourth Sunday of Advent | FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

We see God in each other

WHERE I SAW GOD LAST

The dimple in your right cheek,
the child playing peek-a-boo from his stroller,
the abuelita who spends her afternoons
in the park by 86th; the teenagers on the subway
who cannot control their laughter; Neil, my neighbor,
who always asks about you, the mother who whispers
a dozen times a day, *"thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus"*; the saxophone player at 42nd street, the poets,
the artists, the garden volunteers; the metro car driver
who sticks his head out the window to make sure we're all aboard; the man who gave up his seat on the subway, the kid in the
dinosaur pajamas who cannot be convinced they're not
school attire; the teachers, the nurses, the taxi cab drivers;
the woman at the end of the block with her yappy dogs and her
books in the window, the lovers that lay sprawled out on park blankets,
the runners, the daydreamers, the sidewalk chalk artists;
John from upstairs whose favorite flowers are yellow tulips, the Persian man at the grocery who tells me to be safe when I leave,
my grandmother in Georgia; my neighbor, the stranger; *thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus, thank you, Jesus.*