

# *The First Presbyterian Church* *in the City of New York*

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Service for the Lord's Day*

December 12th, 2021 | 11:00 a.m.

*The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.*

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Allen Orton Gibbs, arr.

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Keisha Crossbourne Flint and Doug Schwalbe

Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,  
remembering the promises of God with prayer.

**We light this candle in joy.**

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppressions.

Hear God's promise in Isaiah 35:

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

**May the God of joy shine in this world.**

**Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Let us worship God!**

HYMN 163

"Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice"

ABERYSTWYTH

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**To you O Lord we bring our lives,  
troubled, broken or at ease;  
a sacrificial offering for you to use.**

**Take away our selfishness and teach us to love as you loved.**

**Take away our sense of pride and show us the meaning of humility.**

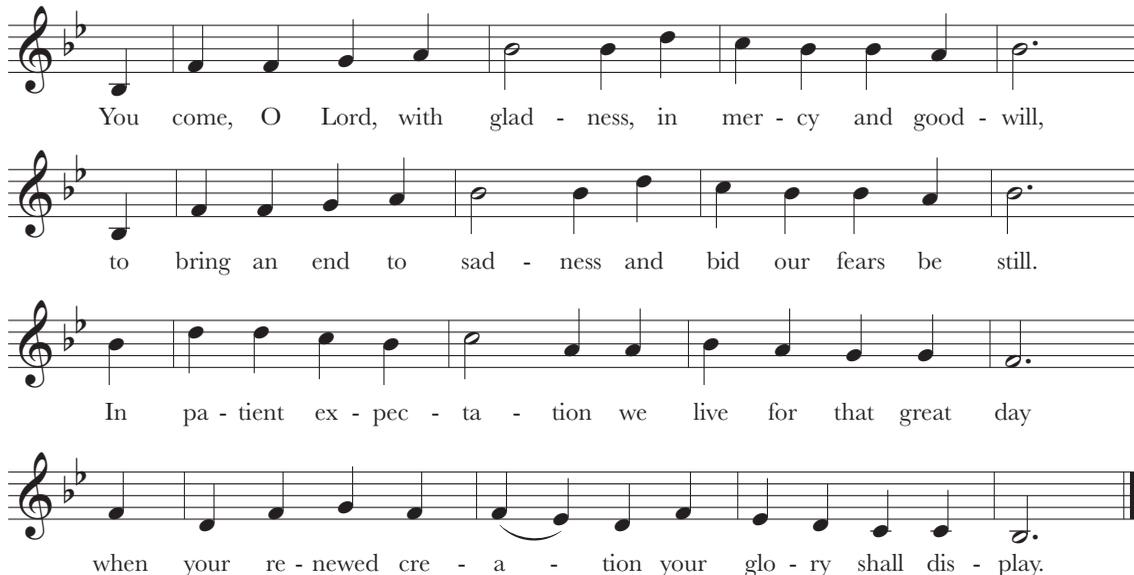
**Take away our blindness and show us the world through your eyes.  
Take away our greed and teach us how to give as you gave.  
Show us your ways.  
Teach us your paths that we might walk with you more closely...**

## SILENT CONFESSION

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## RESPONSE

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN



You come, O Lord, with glad - ness, in mer - cy and good - will,  
to bring an end to sad - ness and bid our fears be still.  
In pa - tient ex - pec - ta - tion we live for that great day  
when your re - newed cre - a - tion your glo - ry shall dis - play.

## SHARING SIGNS OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## CHILDREN'S PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

The words can be found in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*, 106.

*Then Svenska Psalmboken*

## HEARING THE WORD

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

*pew Bible, New Testament page 60/large print, New Testament page 73*

## SERMON

“My Christmas To-Do List: DO”

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Philippians 2:5-11

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

**Christ Jesus,  
though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.**

**Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess to the glory of God:  
Jesus Christ is Lord! Amen.**

### OFFERTORY

attr. John Redford

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice. Let your softness be known unto all: the Lord is 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, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu. Amen. —Philippians 4:4-7

### DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*



*Traditional* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Him, all crea - tures  
*Inclusive* Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise Christ, all peo - ple



here be - low; praise Him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;  
here be - low; praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.  
praise Tri - une God, whom we a - dore.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

### SENDING

### HYMN 144

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

CRANHAM

*Please stand in body or in spirit.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“O That I Had a Thousand Voices”

Paul Manz

*The congregation is invited to continue worshipping through the postlude,  
which is offered as a thanksgiving to God.*

The cross is dedicated  
"In memory of all those who died from AIDS in our church and community."  
Our cross-bearer today is Suzanne Mecs.

## LEADING THIS MORNING

Emma Gritsch, *Seminary Intern*

Rev. Dr. Mark Hostetter, *Associate Pastor Associate Pastor for Stewardship and Mission to the Corporate World*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

Audrey Webber, M.Div., *Associate for Hospitality and Visual Arts*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

## CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS

As we draw near to Christmas, the Sanctuary fills with beautiful flowers and greens. Your gift, in memory or in thanksgiving of family and/or friends, helps make this possible. Scan the QR code below to donate - select “other” and use the memo field to indicate whom you wish to remember or celebrate. Contributions received by Monday, December 20th will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Printed forms are available in the Narthex and the Lobby of the Mellin-Macnab Building

### Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to give your tithe or offering.



Join us for Coffee Fellowship on the North Lawn  
after the Postlude to meet one another, say hello to  
new faces, and enjoy refreshments.

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