



Favored One by Laruen Wright Pittman, inspired by Luke 1:26-38

## Worship for the Lord's Day

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

9:30 am

Prelude

*Prelude in b minor, BWV 869*

J. S. Bach

Words of Welcome

Rev. Beth Freese Dammers

### \*Opening Words

One: God says,

**All: "Do not be afraid."**

One: God says,

**All: "I have called you by name."**

One: God says,

**All: "I will be with you."**

One: God says,

**All: "You are precious and honored in my sight."**

One: At the beginning of this season,

**All: at the start of this week,**

One: may we wrap ourselves in these words.

**All: May we begin again. Let us worship our Holy God!**

Lighting the Candles on the Advent Wreath

Gregg & Betty Ann Morton

\*Hymn 88 v 1, 2, 7

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

## Call to Confession

Michele Vickery

One: In the Gospel of Luke, the angel Gabriel tells Mary two things: that she is highly favored, and that she is going to have a child. Mary's response to this news is simple. With awestruck authenticity, she asks, "How can this be?"

Every time we approach the prayer of confession, I ask myself this same awestruck question, "How can this be?" How can God's mercy know no end? How can God be so gracious with someone as fickle as me?

Regardless of the week we've had, this good news never changes. So join me in speaking the truth of our lives. Join me in the prayer of confession, and may God's mercy leave you awestruck. Let us pray:

## Prayer of Confession

**All: Affirming God, your first words to creation were words of love. You looked at this earth and said, "It is good."**

**You spoke affirmations through the prophets.**

**You spoke blessings over Mary.**

**You spoke belonging through Christ.**

**At every turn, you have reiterated that we are a blessing, made in your image, held in your love. Forgive us for forgetting this truth. Forgive us for measuring our worth by society's measuring stick instead of yours.**

**We believe.**

**Help our unbelief.**

**In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

## Assurance of God's Grace

One: Family of faith, I don't know the last time someone told you that you are good, just as you are. I don't know the last time you heard that you are loved and created in the image of God. I don't know the last time you trusted those words and truly believed that you are a blessing. However, in case it has been a while, hear these words from Isaiah: God says,

**All: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.**

**I have called you by name.**

**You are mine."**

One: We are forgiven. We are loved. Let it leave you awestruck.

**All: Thanks be to God! May we believe it. Amen.**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

Michele

One: As a sign of our reconciliation with God and with one another, let us share the peace with one another. The Peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

**\*Sung Response 654**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

**Growing with God**

Kristin Duy

*Following Growing with God, all children are invited to return to Grace Space, or sit in the pews with their families.*

**\*Sung Response 654**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

IN THE LORD I'LL BE EVER THANKFUL

**Prayer for Inspiration**

Michele

**Scripture Reading**

Isaiah 43:1-7

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 1:26-38

Beth

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

*You Are A Blessing*

Beth Freese Dammers

**\*Hymn Insert**

*In Case No One Ever Told You*

LOBE DEN HERREN

**Offering Our Gifts to God**

**Invitation to Offering**

Michele

**Offertory**

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

arr. Robert A. Hobby

Chancel Choir

**\*Doxology** words 607, tune 606

*Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow*

OLD HUNDREDTH

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Michele



QRCode for Giving

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: (prayer continues)...we join our voices singing praise to you:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of pow-er and might. Heav-en and  
earth are full of your glo - - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -  
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Blest is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho -  
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

One: (prayer continues)...we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ will come a - gain. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high-est! Ho - san - na in the high - est!

### Lord's Prayer (using "sins")

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

#### Communion of the People

Ushers will invite you to come forward for the receiving of communion.

All are invited to come to the table using the center aisle and return via the outside aisles.

The center station offers allergen-free, gluten-free wafers and prepackaged communion elements.

Any with mobility challenges will be served in the pews.

#### Communion Music

*Thanks Be to Thee*

G. F. Handel, arr. Hal Hopson

## Prayer Following Communion

Nourishing God, sometimes we tell ourselves that too much has taken place to begin again. We think the world is too far gone. We think we have made too many mistakes. We tell ourselves that we couldn't possibly begin again. But then we come to this Table and we get a glimpse of your kingdom. We come to this Table and all are welcomed, all are seen, all are fed. And just like that, we have hope. Just like that, we begin again. Thank you for the gift of this fresh start. Thank you for planting hope deep in our bones. Thank you for meeting us in ordinary bread and juice to remind us that it's never too late to build your kingdom here. We are grateful. We are so grateful. Amen.

\*Hymn 107 v 1, 2, 4

*Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

REJOICE, REJOICE

## \*Charge and Blessing

## \*Postlude

*On Jordan's Bank, the Baptist's Cry ("Puer Nobis Nascitur")*

arr. Hal Hopson

\* Please rise in spirit or body

All speak emboldened type

LITURGIST: Michele Vickery

GUEST ORGANIST / PIANIST: Robert Sacks

USHERS: Doug & Erin James

ONLINE WORSHIP HOST: Robin Randall

AV: Gabe Ali, Erich Kretchmer

COMMUNION SERVERS: Janice Bouchard, Sam Dammers, Kris Veenbaas

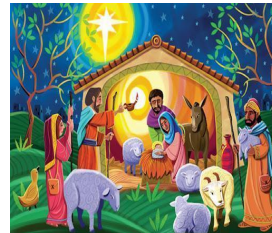
LITURGY BY: Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org)

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Next Sunday in Worship, December 8

2<sup>nd</sup> Advent

Children's Pageant



## CHRISTMAS BRUNCH

December 8

Sponsored by CE-C and Older Adult Ministries

Following worship on December 8, **everyone** is invited to brunch in Fellowship Hall! We will continue celebrating our faith formation Christmas Pageant around the tables together eating a delicious spread. Thank you to the Deacons for organizing this special meal!

HELLO!

My name is

Visitor

## VISITING CPC? WELCOME!

We believe feeling welcome is foundational for members and visitors to be open to the journey of lifelong faith formation and growth. If you've felt a sense of welcome at CPand C are curious in learning more about us, reach out to Ingrid Ellithorpe, Community Connector, to chat by email [ingridellithorpe@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ingridellithorpe@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 630.452.2625

## This week at CPC:

**Sunday, December 1**

**1<sup>st</sup> Advent**

**Communion**

9:30 am — **Worship**

9:45 am — NO Faith Formation - children remain in worship

10:45 am — Adult Education; Chapel / Zoom

**Monday, December 2**

7:00 pm — House & Grounds; Gathering Room

7:00 pm — Worship & Music; Chapel / Hybrid

**Tuesday, December 3**

10:30 am — Staff Meeting; Chapel

12:30 pm — PW Christmas Tea; Gathering Room

7:00 pm — Stephen Ministers; Chapel

**Wednesday, December 4**

7:00 pm — Chancel Choir; Sanctuary

**Thursday, December 5**

9:00 am — Read, Share, Pray; Chapel / Hybrid

7:00 pm — Clarion Bell Choir; Sanctuary

**Friday, December 6**

**Saturday, December 7**

10:00 — 11:30 am Poinsettia Pick-up

**Sunday, December 8**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Advent**

**Children's Pageant**

9:30 am — **Worship**

9:45 am — NO Faith Formation - children remain in worship

10:30 am — All Church Brunch

10:45 am — NO Adult Education

## SHARE THE SPIRIT COLLECTION

**Last Sunday to donate!**



For over 25 years, People's Resource Center's (PRC) Share the Spirit program has invited our most

vulnerable neighbors throughout DuPage to experience holiday shopping for their families at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. This year CPC is helping by collecting:

~New stuffed animals (12 in or smaller)

~New, with tags, crib or twin sized blankets.

**Drop off in the basket at door 5C or narthex**



## GRACE SPACE - A SPACE FOR ALL CHILDREN



All children 3yrs - 10yrs are invited to participate in the worship service in a space designed just for them. There are coloring & activity pages, books,

puzzles, fidget items, streamers and more for the children to use while worshipping right up front!

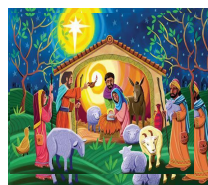


## NURSERY CARE

The Nursery will be staffed by our volunteers **this Sunday, Dec. 1**. The Nursery is located across from the church office on the main floor and is

always open for use, even when not staffed by our volunteers.

**Livestream of the service is on each week!**



## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**Sunday, December 8**

**During the 9:30 worship service**

It is almost time for the Christmas Pageant. Join the angels, shepherds, donkeys, Mary, Joseph, the Innkeeper and

the wise ones as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!



## COOKIES, COCOA & CRAFTS ADVENT CELEBRATION

**Dec. 15**

**10:30 am Fellowship Hall**

Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Advent holiday open house! We will have cookies to decorate... and eat, craft supplies to make Christmas crafts and hot cocoa to enjoy! Drop in for a couple of minutes or stay for the whole time. All are welcome and encouraged to attend this festive event!

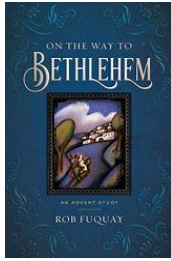


## POINSETTIA PLANT PICKUP

**Sat Dec 7**

**10:00 - 11:30 am**

If you ordered poinsettias for personal use, you may pick them up on Sat., Dec 7 or following worship on Sunday, Dec 8. Thank you for supporting the Kids' Academy Tuition Assistance Fund.



### ADULT EDUCATION

Sun 10:45 - 11:45

Chapel / Zoom

This Sunday, Adult Education continues looking at Advent, discussing *On the Way to Bethlehem*, by Rob Fuquay.

The book helps us look at towns and cities that were key to the story of the birth of Jesus. In the second chapter, we move to Jerusalem. Here, we encounter Zechariah as he ministers in the temple and has a visit from an angel. He and his wife Elizabeth have been waiting and hoping for a child into their old age. The angel says their wait will soon be over – John (the baptizer) will be their son. We learn about their struggle as they have waited – and as they look toward their late-in-life surprise. The author encourages us to try to be patient in waiting on God.

Please join us this Sunday to continue the journey to Bethlehem. This week, we welcome Michele Vickery as our leader. We will begin the class with a brief video by the author.

**We encourage you to read the second chapter of the book, to enhance your understanding and the application of this study to your own journey. Books are available in the church office.**

We will meet in the chapel and on Zoom at 10:45 this Sunday, December 1. [Zoom link](#)



### CIRCLE OF VOICES

Wed Dec 18

9:30 am

Circle of Voices will meet in the Gathering Room at CPC. We will be discussing *As Long as the Lemon Tree Grows* by Zouifa Katouh. The book is available at the Clarendon Hills Library. All are welcome to join the discussion, even if you have not finished or read the book. Traditionally we enjoy lunch together at a local restaurant. For more information, contact Barb Coop.

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CHRISTMAS TEA

Tuesday, December 3, 12:30

All Invited

Our annual Christmas Tea is a great way to get in touch with old friends and with staff. Please come, men, women, children—everyone.

We'll have coffee and tea and delicious treats. You may, if you wish, contribute a small plate of cookies, sweet bread or other treats. Not necessary but certainly appreciated. Hope to see you in the Gathering Room on the 3rd!



### CHRISTMAS JOY

The Christmas Joy offering is being received today. 50% of this annual special offering assists current and retired church workers in a time of need, while the other 50% is used for Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.



### CHANCEL CHOIR OFFERS GAUDETE BY ANDERS ÖHRWAHL

Sun Dec 15

9:30 am

Accompanied by a trio of woodwinds and joined by guest singers, the Chancel Choir will sing movements from the lovely work, *Gaudete*. The Swedish composer and conductor, Anders Öhrwal has created charming arrangements of familiar tunes for Advent and Christmas. The musical selections will be framed by scripture and meditations. Please join us on the third Sunday of Advent for a service that will heighten our anticipation of Jesus coming to earth to redeem all humankind.





**LUMINARIA AT CPC**  
**Volunteers Needed**

Clarendon Hills has a long tradition of placing luminaria along sidewalks on Christmas Eve. This practice reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World. Volunteers are needed to secure the supplies, set up the bags and light the candles. If you'd like this tradition to continue, please volunteer to make it happen. Contact [Shannon Nyhart](#), Church Administrator, if you'd like to be responsible for this. Thank you.

**READ\*SHARE\*PRAY**

*Words for the Beginning: Art, Poetry & Reflections for Advent*  
 Thursdays; December 5, 12, and 19  
 9:00 - 10:30 am; Chapel / Zoom

For three Thursdays in December we will be reading the *Words for the Beginning: Art, Poetry & Reflections for Advent*. Copies are available in the narthex or in the church office. Please consider joining our lively group on Thursday mornings for these 3 weeks to lead you into this joyous season.



**CPC CERAMIC MUGS FOR SALE DECEMBER 8**

Stop by for Mugs and Kisses in the Narthex after Worship on December 8! Pick up your limited edition CPC mug for only \$15 – we know you'll love it a latte.

**Holiday Worship**

<b>Advent Sundays 9:30 am</b>	Dec. 8 Christmas Pageant <i>followed by</i> All Church Brunch
	Dec. 15 Special Choir Music <i>followed by</i> Cookies, Cocoa, & Crafts
	Dec. 22 Bell Choir
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	Dec. 24 3:00, 7:00, & 9:00 pm Communion & Candlelight



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