

MORNING WORSHIP

December 15, 2024

Half past Ten O' Clock

Third Sunday of Advent

*When the organ begins, please prepare for worship through silent prayer and meditation.
Following the service, greet one another with joy and affection!*

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

TIME OF MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

+WELCOME AND NOTICES

PRELUDE

Carol of the Bells
Carolyn Miller, piano

CONGREGATIONAL INTROIT 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"
Children's Choir

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Children will sing the first line alone. Congregation, please join in singing afterwards

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

Emily Cox, Sally Moore and Rebecca Thompson

Reader: The spirit of God has prepared us by baptizing us with the Holy Spirit,
so we will continue to bring the gospel.
We have been anointed to share the good news,

**People: to proclaim liberty to the captives,
release to the prisoners, and comfort to all who mourn.**

Reader: For God loves justice.

**People: So we will prepare the way of the Lord.
We will witness the light!**

UNISON PRAYER

Everlasting God, the wreaths have been hung and holly strung.

Help us remember this is a season of waiting, a season of preparation.

**Give us strength to look to You during these days - not to be consumed by tinsel and paper
but to stand, lift our heads, and remember from where our hope comes.**

**Help us to live into the plan set forth in our baptism as we prepare to welcome those who wait to hear
Your word. Amen.**

THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:1-5, 14
John the Baptist prepares the way.

Ann Miller

INTRODUCING THE STORY

Lori Archer Raible

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Ann Miller

Leader: Let us come, just as we are, to see what has happened.

People: Let us come with the shepherds.

Leader: Let us come and find the One of whom the angels sang.

People: Let us come with the angels.

Leader: Let us come and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

People: Let us come with those who are wise.

Leader: Let us come and find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.

**People: Let us come with the poor in spirit, and poor in flesh; let us come with those who are
humbled by life.**

Leader: Let us come and find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom.

People: Let us come with our friends and family, let us come with our neighbors and with strangers, let us come with all the children of God.

Leader: O come, let us come to the Babe of Bethlehem; O come, let us adore Him!

All: Christ our Lord!

+*HYMN 121 (verses 1 and 4) "O Little Town of Bethlehem" ST. LOUIS

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

THE ANNUNCIATION Luke 1:26-38 Miles Marth
The sending of the angel Gabriel.

HYMN 82 (seated, verses 2 and 3) "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" HYFRYDOL

THE JOURNEY OF MARY AND JOSEPH Luke 2:1-7 Eleanor Finein
Mary and Joseph journey to the stable.

HYMN 115 (seated, verses 1 and 3) "Away in a Manger" MUELLER

THE SHEPHERDS WATCH THEIR FLOCK Luke 2:8-14 Eleanor Finein
The shepherds tend their sheep.

HYMN 113 (seated) "Angels We Have Heard on High" GLORIA

THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE SHEPHERDS Luke 2:15-20 Eleanor Finein
The angels share the good news of Jesus.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

HYMN 151 (seated, verses 1 and 5) "We Three Kings of Orient Are" KINGS OF ORIENT

THE VISIT OF THE MAGI Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12 Casey Koppelman
The wise men bring gifts to the baby Jesus.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND CALL TO OFFERING Casey Koppelman
"A savior born, a gift of joy! A manger bed, a star of light, a mother's laugh, a tiny boy, a father's prayer—
such gifts that night! O God of love, Your joy uplifts—the poor now laugh and know their worth.
May we Your church give Christmas gifts that bring joy to all the earth."
—*A Savior Born, A Gift of Joy*, Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND GIFTS Casey Koppelman

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "Christmas Medley" arr. Cassandra List
Children's Choir and Chancel Choir

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

*BENEDICTION Eleanor Finein
Let us go to join the angels, shepherds, and wise ones; the humble, poor in flesh, and poor in spirit; our friends, families, neighbors, and strangers in singing of God's glory and grace. Let us go to share the good news, that Jesus, the brother of all people is in our midst. Let us go to offer peace and kindness to everyone, joining the Spirit in telling of all we have seen and heard.

*HYMN 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

*POSTLUDE *Fanfare on Wake, Awake for Night is Flying* arr. Michael Burkhardt

*Those who are able please stand.

+Ushers may seat late worshippers

SELWYN AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WARMLY WELCOMES ALL WHO VISIT

Selwyn Avenue is glad you are with us this morning. We welcome all visitors, celebrating God's creativity in human diversity. We'd like to stay in touch with you! Please take a moment to fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate. Please ask an usher if you need help locating the nursery, restrooms, changing tables, or large print hymnals.

Membership is by one of three paths: 1) profession of faith in Jesus Christ (for those who have never been part of a Christian church); 2) re-affirmation of faith (for those who formerly were part of a congregation but have not been involved in recent times - for example, you were baptized and/or confirmed but moved and never engaged with a new congregation); or 3) transfer of membership from another congregation (your membership is with another church). New members and prospective members are invited to participate in Orientation Classes, which are scheduled several times a year, and are a wonderful way to meet others and learn about our church and all the opportunities here. We always stand ready to be in communication with you about your particular situation. The contact information for all staff members is in the bulletin each week.

WORSHIP BAGS FOR 4 YRS. - 5TH GRADE Age-appropriate activities for readers and non-readers to encourage their participation in following along in worship are available in the narthex. Please return the bag to the basket after worship.

SAPC STAFF INFORMATION		
Position	Name	E-mail address
Pastor	Lori Archer Raible	lorir@selwynpres.org
Associate Pastor for CEF/Congregational Life	Margo Fraga	margor@selwynpres.org
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Resident Pastor at QHPC	Allyson Anderson	allyson.qhpc@gmail.com
SAPC SESSION		
Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Grant Armistead, Jodie Bolewitz, Libby Guinan, Christy Horne, Hannah King, Susan Lemmon, Tracie Northan, Ed Thomas, Bobby Yurkutat; Youth Elder-Maisie Macholz	Lori Burbank, Tate Hackman, Todd Muldrew, Adam Piacentino, Denise Pineno, Evan Sauda, Elizabeth Stearns, Caroline Thompson, Tina Weinberg	Michelle Bentley, Lee Bobbitt, Jeremy Caskey, Mike DeAmicis, Zach Houston, Catherine Miller, Sally Moore, Becky Muth, Karey Tom