

We Can Choose a Better Way

GATHERING MUSIC

Larry Landusky

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jordan Stubblefield and Marilyn Arland

MELCOME

Carrie Veal

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Carrie Veal

A series of experiments by Princeton psychologists, Janine Willis and Alexander Todorov, taught the world that it only takes a tenth of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. With decisions happening that quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession. The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God wiggles God's self into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

Prayer of Confession

Carrie Veal

God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting that we are descendants of Joseph. Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.



WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Tim Lyles

Family of Faith, hear this good news:

We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance.

We who have lost our way, are welcomed into community.

We who feel alone, are seen, held, and known.

This is the good news of the gospel.

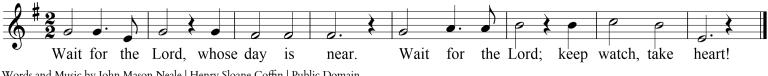
No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,

God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



PSALM 27



Words and Music by John Mason Neale | Henry Sloane Coffin | Public Domain

LITANY OF JOY

Harvey-Clem Family

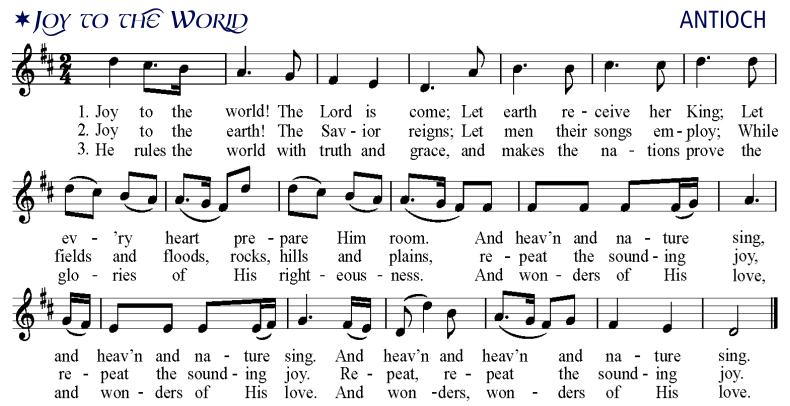
In this season, we remember Christ's first Advent and anticipate his second.

We wait and we long for you, O God.

Today we light this candle believing the King of joy will come, the gift of God's own Son.

We wait and we long for you, O God.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY



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*GOSPEL READING

Dana Taylor

MATTHEW 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Annie Bray

All children are invited to come forward. Following Children's Time, All children who are returning to the Children's Wing are invited to room #102.

Prayer for IUUMINATION

Josh McDonald

Holy God, scripture tells us that you came to Joseph through an angel—loud and clear, impossible to miss. Scripture also tells us that Joseph listened. He rearranged his life to follow your invitation. God, we long for that—all of that. We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss. We long for invitations to something more, something deeper. And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow. So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts. Trace us back to our roots—back to Joseph—who heard and followed. With gratitude we listen. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Josh McDonald

We believe in a God who offers second chances and does not hold grudges. We believe in a God who opens the door to new life and leaves the porch light on for us when we get lost. We believe in a God who believes in us—believes that we can make a difference, that we can choose grace over comparison, love over hate,

peace over war. And so we strive to live our lives in love. We strive to listen as Joseph listened, and to be the people that God calls us to be. It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. This we believe. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sussex Carol

Second Voices

Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr.

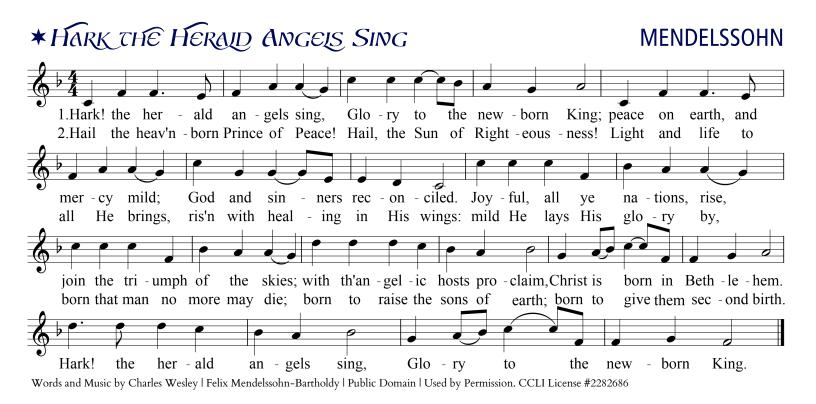
Proclamation

Carrie Veal

Joseph, Did You Know?

Invitation to Christian Discipleship

You are invited to dedicate your life to Christ, join our faith community, or answer a call from God to do ministry in this world by coming forward and share this decision with a pastor.



THE MORNING OFFERING

Please drop your connection card and offering in the plate as it is passed. If you would like to donate online, please go to secondb.org/give or @secondbaptistlbk on Venmo

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Mark Bass

OFFERTORY

Gloria Hodie

Bells Gloria

Julie Turner & Kevin McChesney, arrs.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

Please share the peace with those near you.

*GO TELLIT ON THE MOUNTAIN

GO TELL IT

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

*Benediction

Carrie Veal

From generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.

From generation to generation, God has been by our side.

As we leave this place, may we go and know that we are not alone.

God knows you, God loves you and calls you forth to be the person you are called to be. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT 2B

TODAY

COFFEE DUTY - Souljourners Class

9:30 am: Worship & Livestream

10:45 am: Bible Study, Youth Ministry

3:00 pm: Bells Gloria Rehearsal - Room #101

4:00 pm: Tidings of Joy - All Church Christmas Caroling

5:30 pm: Breakfast with Santa

6:00 pm: Second Chance Al-Anon - Room #134

MONDAY, December 15

6:00 pm: Vision and Leadership Team Meeting - Anyone Can Attend

TUESDAY, December 16

6:30 am: Tuesday Morning Prayer Group @ Chicken Run Café

9:30 am: B & B Book Club Lunch - Meet at 2b at 9:30 am

6:00 pm: Learn to Play Mahjong - Room #130

7:00 pm: The Bells of Christmas by Lubbock Concert Bells

WEDNESDAY, December 17

10:00 am: Beginners Bridge - Room #130

2:00 pm: Senior Adult Fellowship - Room #130,

2b Care Ministry

3:00 pm: Blood Drive

4:00 pm: Prayer Shawl Ministry - Conference Center

No Evening Ministries

THURSDAY, December 18

6:45 am: Jesus and Grits @ Chicken Run Café

Following this worship gathering, please join us in the Grand Hall for a time of fellowship, connection and coffee. We do ask that all cups in the building have lids. At 10:45, there are Sunday school classes for children, youth, and adults. We invite you to visit a discipleship group today.

WE TAKE SERIOUSLY OUR MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Prayer cards are available. Please place your filled out card and offerings in the box on the rear wall of the Worship Hall or place in the offering plate as it is passed during worship.

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR USE.

Please ask an usher for assistance as you enter the sanctuary for worship.

EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Carrie Veal

Senior Pastor

Annie Bray

Interim Associate Pastor of Children and Families

Zachary Carpenter

Communications Coordinator

Tracy Douthitt

Director of Business Operations

Larry Landusky

Pianist

Rev. Dr. Tim Lyles

Executive Pastor
Rev. Josh McDonald

Youth Pastor

Mike Spann

Director of Operations

Joni Lynch

Church Hostess

Marilyn Arland

Organist

Rev. Charles Foster Johnson

Pastor Emeritus

VISION & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Bobby Ebeling Stacy Elliott La Nelle Ethridge John Hunter Mark Flenniken Allie Smith

Jim Smith



