



*Sunday, December 17, 2023, 11 a.m.*

Third Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols

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PRELUDE                      In Dulci Jubilo                      Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

WELCOME                      Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.  
   **People: And also with you.**

MINUTE *for* STEWARDSHIP                      Elder Karl Mattison

LIGHTING *of the* THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

INTROIT                      All My Heart This Night Rejoices                      Johann Georg Ebeling (1637-1676)

*All my heart this day rejoices,  
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;  
'Christ is born!' their choirs are singing,  
Till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.*

*Hark! A voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, doth entreat, 'flee from woe and danger!  
Brethren, come! From all doth grieve you,  
You are freed; All you need I will surely give you.'*

◆ *You are invited to stand*

*As a courtesy to others, please turn off your cell phone and refrain from flash photography during the service.*

*Come, then, let us hasten yonder!  
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder!  
Love him who with love is yearning!  
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!*

*Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish,  
Live to thee, and with thee, dying, shall not perish;  
But shall dwell with thee for ever,  
Far on high, in the joy that can alter never.*

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Jessica Tate

FIRST LESSON          Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7

Sally McLeod

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

◆ HYMN 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*Mendelssohn*

SECOND LESSON          Isaiah 11:1-10

Regina Andrade

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. *cont...*

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

CAROL

A Spotless Rose

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

*A spotless rose is blowing sprung from a tender root, of ancient seers' foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit; It's fairest bud unfolds to light amid the cold, cold winter and in the dark midnight.*

*The rose which I am singing, Whereof Isaiah said, is from its sweet root springing in Mary, purest maid; For through our God's great love and might the blessed babe she bare us in a cold, cold winter's night.*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Dr. Camille Cook Howe

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Alex Cameron

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. *cont...*

For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

CAROL

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Lauridsen (b. 1943)

*O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord, Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

Priscila Lucía Rodríguez Benavides

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 with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’

CAROL

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner (1917-2011)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>1. <i>Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:<br/>I would my true love did so chance<br/>To see the legend of my play,<br/>To call my true love to my dance:<br/>Sing O my love, O my love,<br/>This have I done for my true love.</i></p> <p>2. <i>Then was I born of a virgin pure,<br/>Of her I took fleshly substance;<br/>Thus was I knit to man’s nature,<br/>To call my true love to my dance: (Refrain)</i></p> | <p>3. <i>In a manger laid and wrapped I was,<br/>So very poor this was my chance,<br/>Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,<br/>To call my true love to my dance: (Refrain)</i></p> <p>4. <i>Then afterwards baptized I was;<br/>The Holy Ghost on me did glance,<br/>My Father’s voice heard from above,<br/>To call my true love to my dance: (Refrain)</i></p> |
|--|---|

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## ◆ HYMN 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*

## SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Ann Cameron

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1. *The first good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of one;  
To see the blessed Jesus Christ  
When he was first her son:  
When he was first her son, good man:  
And blessed may he be,  
Both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,  
To all eternity.*
2. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of two;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
To make the lame to go: (Refrain)*
3. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of three;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
To make the blind to see: (Refrain)*
4. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of four:  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
To read the bible o'er: (Refrain)*
5. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of five;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
To bring the dead alive: (Refrain)*
6. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of six;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
Upon the crucifix: (Refrain)*
7. *The next good joy that Mary had,  
It was the joy of sev'n;  
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,  
To wear the crown of heav'n: (Refrain)*

PRAYERS of the  
PEOPLE  
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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING and  
OFFERTORY  
*Passing of the  
Fellowship Books*

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes      Hal H. Hopson (b. 1933)  
*Thou shalt know Him when He comes, not by any din of drums,  
nor the manner of His airs, nor by anything He wears; Thou  
shalt know Him when He comes, not by His crown or His gown,  
but His coming known shall be by the holy harmony, Which His  
coming makes in thee. Amen.*

# PRAYER of THANKSGIVING

SEVENTH LESSON    John 1:1-14

Tom Jennings

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

◆ HYMN 133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

*Adeste Fideles*

◆ BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

In Dulci Jubilo

*14th-century German carol* (arr. R. Pearsall)

POSTLUDE

Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## *About Today's Service*

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**About Today's Music:** The music for this morning's Lessons and Carols service is drawn from the rich and varied repertoire of Christmas choral music, from Lutheran hymnody of the early Baroque to contemporary American compositions. No other topic has so inspired composers to set their imaginations to music as the Christmas story, and for understandable reasons. For in it is contained the greatest of dramatic structures. Thanks to the GPC choir for their faithful and tireless work through every season, including this.

**Advent Readers:** Austin Cannon, Charlotte Cannon, Grace Cannon, Emilia Davis, Margaret Howe, Anne Stocker, Kate Stocker, George Sumner, and John Sumner

**Flowers:** The flowers in the sanctuary today are donated by Katy McBride in honor of all the teachers across the congregation, keeping students engaged at this busy season

**Ushers:** Rick Del Sontro (Captain), Lucy Coble Joyce, Veronique Dupont, Eric Durbin, Kristin Froehle, Claire Hunn, Catherine Johnson, Bryan Scott, Michele Tate Wilson and Jimmy Wilson

**Punch Bunch:** Please join us in the Georgetown Room following worship for Punch Bunch hosted by the Mattison Family

**Children's Worship Leaders:** Jaime Hart, Kathleen Jennings, Brian Stocker, and Tim Shirk

**Nursery Caregivers:** Gamage Perera, Swarna Nawarantha, and Udeni Passaramudalige

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### **Church Staff**

*Senior Pastor*

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# Weekly Calendar

*Sunday, December 17*

- 9:00am Officer Training
- 9:45am Nursery
- 9:50am Confirmation Class
- 10:00am Pageant Rehearsal
- 10:45am Singing with Ms. Regina
- 11:00am Worship\*\*
- 12:00pm Punch Bunch
- 5:00pm Yoga\*

*Tuesday, December 19*

- 11:00am GPC Staff Meeting
- 5:30pm Dinner at Two Amys
- 7:00pm Blue Christmas Service at the National Cathedral

*Wednesday, December 20*

- 7:30pm Advent Bible Study\*

*Sunday, December 24*

- 10:15am Nursery
- 11:00am Worship\*\* - Pageant
- 12:00pm Punch Bunch
- 8:00pm Worship\*\* - Christmas Eve  
Candlelight service

*\*Event will be conducted virtually.*

*\*\*Both virtual and in-person options will be available.*

## Announcements

### Christmas Flower Dedications

Donate to our advent and Christmas flower fund. Use the special envelopes in the pews and drop your donation in the offering plate before Christmas Eve. You may also choose to include a dedication written on the envelope.

### Blue Christmas Service at National Cathedral

Tuesday, December 19th at 7 pm.

You are invited to join Pastor Meghan and GPC Member Katy McBride for a Blue Christmas service. "We remember the One who shares our burdens, who shows us the way to the Light, and who journeys the way with us-At a time of year when so many experience feelings of grief, loss, and hardship, this service of prayer, music, and reflection invites us into hope and healing." Join Meghan and Katy beforehand for dinner at Two Amys at 5:30 pm or meet them at the Cathedral at 6:45 pm. All are welcome.

### Advent Bible Study

Join the GPC Pastoral Staff for a Virtual Advent Study. Exploring God's gifts of peace, justice and joy: An Advent Study on Isaiah. Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30 pm during December.

**-The Gift of Joy:** The Desert Shall Rejoice and Blossom-Wednesday, December 20th with Pastor Meghan  
Zoom Meeting ID: 847 0981 2098  
Passcode: 319891

### Stewardship 2024: Sharing God's Story

Please show your appreciation for your many blessings, and your dedication to this Church with a Stewardship gift for 2024. We ask everyone to participate, especially those who have not given before. If you are particularly blessed this year, please increase your intent. The Bible asks us to joyfully give thanks to God. Let us also be joyful givers so we can continue to "Share God's Story." Please fill out the intent card in the pews and return it to the offering plate or fill out the online intent form at [gtownpres.org/stewardship](http://gtownpres.org/stewardship).

## Thank you to all GMC Extends Volunteers

Thank you for embodying the best of Christian faith by helping show hospitality and feed our neighbors who are hungry and without homes. In the past three weeks we served more than 480 meals and had more than 130 volunteers to make it possible. Thank you GPC.

## Nursery Gift

Margaret Clair is organizing a Christmas gift for GPC's three nursery workers, Udeni, Swarna, and Gamage, and is collecting contributions by Venmo (@MargaretWClair) until December 22. Feel free to reach out to her directly with any questions ([margaretwclair@gmail.com](mailto:margaretwclair@gmail.com) or 615-594-6369)

## Worship

[gtownpres.org/worship](http://gtownpres.org/worship)

Welcome to Georgetown Presbyterian Church, where people have gathered to worship for over 240 years. We worship each Sunday at 11:00am.

## Give

[gtownpres.org/give](http://gtownpres.org/give)

Your gifts enable the mission and ministry of this church. To manage a current pledge or make a one-time gift, visit [gtownpres.org/give](http://gtownpres.org/give) or scan the QR code below.

To give of your time and talents, visit

[gtownpres.org/timeandtalents](http://gtownpres.org/timeandtalents).



## Learn

[gtownpres.org/learn](http://gtownpres.org/learn)

### Children's Programming on Sunday Morning Education Hour 10:00 - 11:00 am

*Sunday School:* Children ages 3.5 - fifth grade are invited to attend as often as you are able at 10:00 am in the third floor classrooms. The Sunday School teachers will walk children down to the chapel for singing at the end of class.

*Singing with Ms. Regina:* Children of all ages are welcome to sing along with us in the chapel beginning at 10:45. Parents are invited to stay and sing together.

*Confirmation Class:* Confirmation class runs weekly from September through February for interested Youth in sixth grade and up. Class is led by Pastor Meghan at 10:00 am in the Youth Room.

### Worship Hour 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Young Children and Worship:* Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in PreK-2nd grade are led upstairs to participate in this Montessori-based worship program. Parents should plan to walk upstairs to pick their children up from the classrooms.

*Children's Church:* Following the Time with Children in the worship service, children in 3rd - 5th grade are led to the chapel to participate in age-appropriate worship, led by one of our pastors and Ms. Regina. Children are dismissed back to the sanctuary or to punch bunch when Children's Church is over.

### Youth Group

Youth Group meets a couple of Sunday evenings each month. If you're interested in receiving emails about youth group programming, please reach out to Jennie to be added to the list ([JDL@gtownpres.org](mailto:JDL@gtownpres.org))

## Connect

[gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect)

### New Member Conference

Interested in joining GPC? Learn more about membership and what it means to be a Presbyterian at our next New Member Conference on January 21st. Be in touch with Pastor Jessica for more information. Visit [gtownpres.org/join](http://gtownpres.org/join) to sign up.

### Sign Up to Serve Punch Bunch

We are seeking new and returning volunteers to contribute to this important weekly event! Grab your family or some friends, take a trip to Safeway or Costco, and help us build and nourish our community in this time of fellowship. Lots of resources are available for Punch Bunch hosts, including a helpful tip sheet located at [gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect).

### Requests for Prayers

Scan here or visit [gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect) to fill out the care and support form. Responses will go directly to the GPC Care Committee. Thank you for helping us care for yourselves and the broader GPC community.



## Serve

[gtownpres.org/serve](http://gtownpres.org/serve)

### Sign Up to Be a Greeter

You may have noticed the smiling faces of GPC's greeters, volunteers who welcome members and visitors each Sunday with a friendly word and a warm handshake (or elbow bump!). This is a great way to meet people in the congregation and help bring warmth and community to our congregation. To volunteer for this fun and important role, visit [gtownpres.org/connect](http://gtownpres.org/connect).

## Happy Birthday!

- December 19* Mitchell Berger  
Jean-Amiel Jourdan
- December 20* Meredith Ferro  
Matthew Johnson
- December 21* Edit Frenyo  
Margaret Howe
- December 22* Sean Welch  
Sharntell Coldren
- December 23* Brian Goodell

## Daily Lectionary

- Monday* John 5:30-47
- Tuesday* Luke 1:5-25
- Wednesday* Luke 1:26-38
- Thursday* Isaiah 31:1-9
- Friday* Psalms 102; 148
- Saturday* Psalm 114

# *Serving Our City, United in Christ*

*Welcome to the Georgetown Presbyterian Church*

If you are here for the first time, we extend a special welcome to you. Please take a moment to read through the bulletin which contains important information for the life of this congregation.

- Ushers are wearing red lapel tags and are in the back of the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask them.
- Please join us after worship for refreshments and fellowship in the Georgetown Room.

Children are always welcome!

- Worship bags are available for children who wish to stay in the worship service. Children can pick these up under the bench in the Narthex, and return them after church
- For our youngest children through three years old, nursery care is available upstairs beginning at 9:45am.
- After the Time with Children in the service, children can remain with their families or exit the Sanctuary with our Children's Worship leaders to continue age-appropriate worship. Please feel free to escort your children to their classroom to meet the leaders.

Navigating the Service

- Stars ♦ indicate when you are invited to stand if you are able.
- Bold text indicates that the congregation says this together, in one voice.
- Hymns can be found in the purple hymnals. Bibles are located at the end of the pews. Large print hymnals are available in the back of the Sanctuary.
- We receive communion once a month, and all are welcome.



THE  
GEORGETOWN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

The Georgetown Presbyterian Church has been a steadfast presence in our nation's capital since 1780, ministering to generations of Washingtonians, serving our city, united in Christ. For more of our history, visit [gtownpres.org/us/history](http://gtownpres.org/us/history).

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