



**An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day**  
**Stone Presbyterian Church**  
**A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation**  
**December 16, 2018 ~ The Third Sunday of Advent**



**We Gather to Worship the One Who Is Coming**

**PRELUDE** "The Advent of Our King" Healey Willan  
*(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)*

**INTROIT & POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**LEADER:** Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, rejoice!

**PEOPLE:** **The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything.**

**LEADER:** But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

**LEADER:** For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**ALL:** **Let us worship the God.**

+ **HYMN** "Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending"  
 (see insert) (+Those who are able may stand.)



**WELCOME**

**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> ADVENT CANDLE – GIFT OF JOY**  
 Trish Harris & Anne Dunn

**UNISON PRAYER:**

**Dear God, help us to get ready for your arrival. Show us the path that leads to you, so that healing and wholeness can come into our lives and into our world. We offer you our lives in joyous thanksgiving for the grace, the peace, and the strength that you offer to us every moment of day. Amen**

+THE ADVENT GIVING – 



**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in silent reflection, then together)  
**God of Grace and goodness, what we claim as our own, you create and give to us. What we would use for ourselves alone, you entrust to us for the blessing of all. Where we perceive scarcity, you provide enough for all. Where we grasp and hoard, you invite us to share. Where we privilege some at the expense of others, you endow all with value, worth and dignity. Where we divide and exclude, you invite and welcome all to the table. When we turn from your way, you love us still. When we fall short, you make possible new beginnings. God of grace and goodness, forgive us, renew us. Open us afresh to the leading of your holy spirit for the living of our days. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.** (Rev. W. Mark Koenig)

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

+**A DOXOLOGY** (to the tune GLORIA)  
**To the God of joy we sing,  
 To the Son let praises ring,  
 And the Holy Spirit praise,  
 As this song of joy we raise:  
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!  
 Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!**



+**THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**We Listen for the Word of God**

**PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING**  
 (You are invited to say the concluding "amen" aloud.)

**LESSONS FROM THE SCRIPTURES**

**Zephaniah 3:14-20 – The Lord will restore the fortunes of Zion.**  
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God**

**Isaiah 12:2-6 - Told by Anne Dunn**  
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God**

**ANTHEM** "The God whom Earth and Sea and Sky" James J. Chepponis

**Luke 3:7-18 – John's call to repentance**  
 The Word of the Lord. / **Thanks be to God**



SERMON:

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

**We Respond in Faith with Thanksgiving**

+ HYMN (*see insert*)

“I’ve Got Joy Like a Fountain”

SPIRITUAL

+ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (based on the Prologue to the Gospel of John)

**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 were made through him, and without him nothing was made. What was made in him was life, and the life was the light of humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not been able to overcome it. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own home, and his own people did not receive him. But to those who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH AND JOYS & CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER (Traditional, p. 16)

OFFERTORY

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

Hugo Gehrke

+A DOXOLOGY ADESTE FIDELES

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O Come, let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

+ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We Go Out in Peace**

+ HYMN #15

“Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers”

to LANCASHIRE

+CHARGE & BLESSING: *Philippians 4:4-7 – Rejoice in the Lord always!*

+CHORAL RESPONSE AND POSTLUDE

**STONE CHURCH WELCOMES YOU TO WORSHIP**

December 16, 2018 ~ Third Sunday of Advent ~ 10:30 a.m.



*The purpose of Stone Church is to be an inviting, spiritual community of Christ, engaging in worship that inspires and challenges us to learn and grow as we reach out in caring and service, trusting in the love of God.*

**All the People, Ministers**

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stonepres@verizon.net

Scott Leonard, Commissioned Lay Pastor  
G. Roberts Kolb, Director of Music  
Gerald G. Platz, Pastor Emeritus  
Janice LeFrois, Office Administrator  
Jesse Miller, Sexton

[www.stonepres.org](http://www.stonepres.org) ~ [www.facebook.com/stonepres](https://www.facebook.com/stonepres)

+HYMN      ***Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending***      to ODE TO JOY  
Charles Wesley, 1758 ~ Adapted by Dennis Dewey, 2008

**Jesus comes with clouds descending, Lamb of God for sinners slain!  
Thousands of the saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! to the Lord who comes again!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign!**

**Yes! Amen! Let all adore you, seated on the gracious throne;  
Crowns and rulers bow before you, worship you as Lord alone.  
Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus, let your grace and pow'r be shown!  
Come, Lord Jesus, come to help us; come to heal and save your own!**

**We who saw you crucified and lifted up upon the tree  
Now with our own eyes behold you, robed in awesome majesty.  
There upon the clouds of heaven we our true Messiah see,  
Bringing justice, peace and mercy, joy in setting captives free!**

+HYMN      “I’ve Got Joy Like a Fountain”      SPIRITUAL

**1. I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain,  
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.**

**2. I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river,  
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul**

**3. I've got hope like a rainfall,  
I've got hope like a rainfall,  
I've got hope like a rainfall in-a my soul.**

**4. I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean,  
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.**

**JOY SUNDAY:** Today is the third Sunday in Advent. As is our custom, for each of the Sundays in Advent a special collection is taken in support of a specifically named agency or service. We have lighted the candles of Hope and Love. This week we light the candle of **JOY**. Our special joy collection will be donated to the Presbyterian Church's Christmas Joy offering. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor the gift of Christ's birth by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and help develop our future leaders at Presbyterian-related ethnic schools and colleges. As is our custom, this Advent offering will be separate from our regular giving. Your generosity in support of the Christmas Joy offering is appreciated. Thank you.

**HOPE HOUSE WISH LIST:** This month's wish list includes the following: **Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Napkins, Toilet Paper, Hot Chocolate, Coffee, Butter/ Margarine Sugar, Breakfast Cereal, & Milk Money.** Also, **Holiday items** (given away Christmas Eve), **gloves, hats, scarves** (Men's & Women's). Any donation that you designate for food or personal needs will greatly be appreciated. If you have questions, contact Ceil Gilbert (853-8289) or ceilgilbert@yahoo.com.

**COUNTRY PANTRY** is collecting of all types of hygiene products thru January 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that loose change collected in worship on the third Sunday of each month is given the Country Pantry.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** for 2019 are available for pick up in the back of the sanctuary.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:** Please remember the **deadline** for the January newsletter is **December 19<sup>th</sup>**; we will be **printing** by **December 27<sup>th</sup>**. All articles must be in and proofed before that date. Thank you.

**DAILY DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS:** The January, February and March Daily Devotional Booklets are now available in the back of the sanctuary for anyone who wishes to take one.



**CHRISTMAS FAMILIES:** Today, after worship, we will wrap the gifts in the Norton Room. Thank you all for your generous support!!



**LONGEST NIGHT ECUMENICAL SERVICE:** On the longest night of the year, Friday, **December 21st** (the winter solstice), the Clinton Area Ministerium is supporting a Longest Night service at **St. James Episcopal Church**, 9 Williams St at **6:00 p.m.** for those experiencing grief, loss or hardship during the holiday season. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer, among other things can be difficult. The pain of loss is felt by many at this time of year and this service offers a sacred, gentle space to gather, remember, and comfort.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS:** Please sign the Christmas cards for our home bound members and others. They are on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

**FAIR TRADE SHOPPE:** How about some nice **Organic Cotton Snuggle Socks** with full-cushion, non-binding fit and bright mood-inspiring stripes, made in North Carolina, to keep your feet toasty this winter? We also have some Organic Wool Sweater Socks which are as cozy and warm as your favorite sweater. Made from the softest Organic Merino Wool, these socks wash wonderfully and stretch back to a perfect foot fit. These and many, many more unique gift items from 38 different countries are available at our Fair Trade Shop, Stone Presbyterian Church, 8 So. Park Row, Clinton. Purchasing fair trade items ensures artisans and small farmer's fair wages and healthy working conditions, providing dignity, sustainable development and hope for marginalized people. Our hours are every Thursday from 10am to 6:30pm, second Saturdays from 10am to 4pm, and every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas from 10am to 4pm. The entrance to our shop is on Williams Street.





*The flowers in the chancel were given to the glory of God in memory and honor of the following:*

**GIVEN BY:**

Hal & Linda Rance

Scott & Helen Leonard

Pat & Buzz Joseph

Lori & Mary Chamberlain

Germaine Gogel,  
Andrew & Kevin Bearing,

Emily Hughes

Frank & Grace Whittemore

John & Christine Menard

Peter & Donna Goodfriend

John & Mary Ann Stiefvater

Janice LeFrois

Brothers & Heintz Families

Trisha, David & Ashley Harris

**GIVEN BY:**

John & Mary Ann Stiefvater

Sherry Robinson & Phil Conley

**IN MEMORY OF:**

Our Parents

Loved Ones

Mildred & Harry Schell, Adro & Tony Joseph,  
Keely Schell

George & Marjorie Chamberlain, Margaret Snow

Lillian & Lawrence Bering,  
Bernard Gogel

William Hughes

Loved ones

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Menard,  
Mr. & Mrs. John Monohan

the Goodfriends & the Palmers,

Loved ones

Faye Campbell

Clarence Locke & Gary LaGasse

Kristin Lucy, Our parents & grandparents

**IN HONOR OF:**

Family & Friends

Donna Robinson



**THE CALENDAR**



Wednesday:	8:30 a.m.	CAM meeting
Thursday:	10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Fair Trade Shoppe
Saturday:	10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Fair Trade Shoppe
Sunday:	9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	Choir Practice
Sunday:	10:30 a.m.	Worship
Sunday:	During Worship	Baptism for Abigail Miller

**Want to see what else is on the calendar? Go to our Web page – [stonepres.org](http://stonepres.org) & click on the “CALENDAR ICON”**



**GREETERS:**

Judy LaGasse & Mary Chamberlain

**ADVENT READER:**

Trish Harris

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER:**

Anne Dunn

**PRAYER CHAIN:**

If you would like to add someone to our prayer list or would like to receive the prayer list for daily prayer, please go to our website [www.stonepres.org](http://www.stonepres.org) and click on “Prayer Request” or call the church office at 315-853-2933.

**Prayer Request:**

Peter & Donna Goodfriend & Family  
Fred Kaiser  
Donna Robinson  
Tom Soja  
Tanya Hamshar and Family  
Debra LaFont  
Tiffany Heintz  
Lora Schilder & Family  
Patricia Joseph & Family  
The Family of Hermine William  
The Family of Bill Porter  
For all children & grandchildren to attend church

**Members/Friends of the Week:**

Peter & Emily Massi  
Alan Petrie  
Tom & Catherine Phelan

