

Welcome to the

Setauket Presbyterian Church

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



1st Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

December 3, 2023

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit; unison words are in bold.*

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Senf Family

First Reader: How does a weary world hope?

Second Reader: By telling stories of hope,

by lighting candles in the night,

by planting seeds in the winter,

by praying for children as they grow,

by insisting that small acts can make a difference.

First Reader: There are a million ways to practice hope.

So today we light the candle of hope as a reminder and a charge.

Second Reader: With God's help, may we bring hope into a weary world. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

In God's house, we can be joyful.

We can be grateful.

We can be hopeful.

In God's house, we can be weary.

We can be anxious.

We can be grieving.

In God's house, we can be honest—

inspired or tired,

delighted or doubtful,

connected or curious,

and everything in between.

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

❖ **HYMN no. 107** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we are weary.

Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.

Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.

Gracious God, we are overwhelmed.

Forgive us for creating so many distractions.

Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.

Gracious God, sometimes we struggle to hold on to hope.

Forgive us.

Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves,

no matter how many times we struggle to hope,

God's love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE no. 87 *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.** *Please share a sign of Christ's peace with one another.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Mighty God, send your Holy Spirit to us this morning to speak of faith, hope, and love, so that we might live these things in our day-to-day lives and thus be a source of comfort to all who encounter us. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,' " John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ANTHEM *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus*

David Lasky

Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;

from our fears and sins release us; free us from captivity.

Israel's strength and consolation, you the hope of all the earth,

dear desire of ev'ry nation, come and save us by your birth.

*Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring.
By your own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by your all-sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.*

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

❖ **HYMN no. 83** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY

❖ **DOXOLOGY no. 609**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE**

**Lord, we give you thanks that in the coming of Christ your steadfast love and faithfulness
have met, and your righteousness and peace have kissed. May the gifts we offer this day
lift up those in need and prepare the way for your salvation. Amen.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

*Ours is an open table. Visitors and children are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. Please note
that all shared Communion bread or crackers are gluten free, and all "wine" is grape juice.*

Invitation

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Great Thanksgiving

sung response:

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Words of Institution

sung response:

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

(G) (A)(Bm) (G) (D) (A)(Bm) (Em7) (A)(Dsus)(D)
B^b C Dm B^b F C Dm Gm7 C F^{sus} F

Christ has died; Christ is ris-en; Christ will come a - gain.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Hymn no. 525 Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;
let us break bread together on our knees.
When I fall on my knees, with
my face to the rising sun,

O Lord, have mercy on me.
Let us drink wine...
Let us praise God...

Hymn no. 507 Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace.
Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table;
it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of ...
...peace...
...love...
...hope...
...joy...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

❖ **HYMN no. 93** *Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates*

❖ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ.
To God be the glory.

We say and sing these words together with our siblings in Christ in San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba

**The benediction of the God of Sarah, Hagar and Abraham,
The benediction of the Son, who was born of Mary,
The benediction of the Holy Spirit of love,
Who watches over us like a mother for her children,
Descend upon us all. Amen.**

*La bendición de Dios de Sar' Agar y Abram;
La bendición del hijo que de María nació;
La bendición del Santo Espiritu de'amor
Que vela por nosotros, cual madre por sus hijos,
Descienda sobre todos, Amen.*

POSTLUDE

The Father's Rose

Mark Hayes

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2* and prayers by the Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

We welcome **Roxanne Kiefer Mollo** as our Worship Assistant this morning.
Thanks to her for her service!
