

Welcome to the
Setauket Presbyterian Church
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



1st Sunday of Christmas

Order of Worship

December 31, 2023

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

GATHERING MUSIC

RINGING OF THE STEEPLE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise God in the heights!

Praise the Lord from the earth,

from the deeps and amidst the mighty waters!

Mountains and hills,

fruit trees and cedars –

wild animals and cattle,

creeping things and flying birds –

kings of the earth and all peoples,

princes and rulers –

men and women alike,

elders and youth together –

praise the name of the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

❖ **HYMN no. 143** *Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we have always not lived as your faithful children. At times, we have kept silent in the midst of prejudice and hatred. At times, we have been idle in the face of violence and injustice. At times – many times! – we have not been a light to the nations, and a sign of your glory. Forgive us, Merciful God. Restore in us your beautiful grace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

Beloved of God, as an ancient bridegroom would have decked himself with a garland, and as an ancient bride would have adorned herself with jewels, God covers us with the robe of Jesus' righteousness. Know that you are forgiven and live as God's beloved.

SUNG RESPONSE no. 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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.*

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, so guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we too may welcome your saving Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:22-35

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

ANTHEM

Mary Had A Baby

Traditional West Indian

SCRIPTURE Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Johanna McCune Wagner

❖ **HYMN no. 132** *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

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**

Loving God, we give you thanks for the light of the world, Jesus Christ, through whom we have received adoption as your children. With Jesus our brother, we dedicate

ourselves in ministry to the world, that we may live as heirs of your promises to the honor and glory of your name. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

❖ **HYMN no. 119** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

❖ **CHARGE and BENEDICTION**

The words of the psalmist were our call to worship.
Now they are a charge for how we are called to live.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!
**Praise the Lord from the earth,
from the deeps and amidst mighty waters!**
Mountains and hills,
fruit trees and cedars –
**wild animals and cattle,
creeping things and flying birds –**
kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and rulers –
**men and women alike,
elders and youth together –**
praise the name of the Lord!

May God, redeemer of Israel, dismiss us in peace;
may Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary, uphold us in love;
may the Holy Spirit, the power of God, guide us in truth.

POSTLUDE *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen*

Marybeth Bennett

Today's liturgy is adapted from *Connections Worship Companion: Year B, Volume 1* and
Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1.

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We welcome **Jane-Marie Wright** as our Worship Assistant this morning. Thanks to her for her service!
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Annual Reports for 2023 are due to the Church Office by
Monday, January 8th. Please reach out to Aaron if you would like a
copy of your committee report from last year.