

# Worship for the Lord's Day

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

\* Denotes all may stand if possible

Greetings & Announcements

Nancy Welker

Refrain: God is good / *All the time* / All the time / *God is good*

Prelude – *Carol of the Bells* - Ukrainian Carol arranged by James Christensen

Tawnee Hunter, Amanda Sheffler and Stacey Steele, flutists

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture Reading, *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*, pew Bible N.T., p. 1258

\*Hymn #48 – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Advent Candle Lighting

Unison Prayer:

*Thank you God for the joy you give us. We ask that as we wait for all your promises to be fulfilled, and for Christ to come again, that you would remain present with us. Help us to amend our lives so that we show forth our Joy in Christ, rather than enslavement to sinfulness. Help us today, and everyday, to worship you, to hear your word, and to do your will by sharing your joy with the world. We ask it in the name of the one who was born in Bethlehem. Amen.*

Response – *Holy Spirit Rain Down* by Russell Fragar

*Holy Spirit rain down, rain down;  
O Comforter and Friend, how we need Your touch again;  
Holy Spirit rain down, rain down;  
Let Your power fall, let Your voice be heard;  
Come change our hearts as we stand on Your Word;  
Holy Spirit, rain down.* CCLI License #1116973

\*Passing of the Peace:

Leader: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

## PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Word in Music – *Come, Emmanuel!* by Pepper Choplin

Chancel Choir

Ready, waiting, God is with us. Ready, waiting for Emmanuel.

God is with us, come, Emmanuel. Yearning, sighing for Emmanuel.

Praying, crying, "Emmanuel." Come, Emmanuel! O come and with us dwell.

For unto you a Child is born, to you a Son is given.

Though He arrives through human birth, He comes with full divinity.

For unto you a Child is born, to you a Son is given.

No other one has come before, born of earth, born of heav'n, born of earth and heaven.

Ready, waiting, come, Emmanuel.

Children's Message

Westminster College Chaplain, Jim Mohr

*The children are invited to Children's Church at this time.*

*They will return after the sermon.*

Second Scripture Reading, *Luke 1:46-55*, pew Bible N.T., p. 1089

Sermon - *O Little Town: The Blessings of His Heaven* The Rev. Dr. Matthew L. Camlin

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings on His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

\*Song of Praise (on insert) – *Angels from the Realms of Glory* by Montgomery & Chapman

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (*"Forgive us our sins..."*)

Presentation of Offerings (If you haven't already, please pass the Friendship pads.)

Offertory – *There's a Song in the Air* arranged by Cindy Berry

\**Doxology, Hymn #592*

\*Prayer of Dedication

## SENDING OUT THE WORD

\*Hymn #22 – *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude – *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear* arranged by Gordon Young

# Worship Notes

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

**If you are a guest today** we pray that God will bless you through your presence with us. Please sign the pew pad, including contact information, so we may welcome you.

**Assistance for worship** is available including large print bulletins and hymnals. We also have personal audio receivers that provide sound amplification.

**Childcare:** The Nursery for babies and toddlers (infants-age 2) is located through the side doors of the sanctuary to the left of the pulpit area. Thanks” to **Marilyn Reeher** for staffing our Nursery and to **Lauri Buly** for assisting today. **Children’s Church** is a gathering where children engage a Bible story in a creative and developmentally focused way. There are two groups: preschool and kindergarten students go to the NWPC Preschool Room, #216; students in 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades are in the Children’s Church Room, #213. Teachers are **Joel & Jill Postema** and **Diane Camlin**.

**Greeting you this morning at the main entrance are Wallace & Cynthia King.** Wally is a retired CPA and Cy worked as Executive Director of a Camp Fire Council. They are both natives of eastern Ohio who moved to New Wilmington 14+ years ago. Cy is a Westminster graduate. Both are ordained Deacons. Wally is an ordained Elder and has served terms in four different churches.

We are very pleased to have our middle school students serve as **acolytes** in worship. This morning **Emily Arblaster** and **Stephannie Klamut** are lighting the candles.

**Christmas Joy 2017–Out of Gratitude We Give:** During Advent, churches throughout the denomination will again receive the **Christmas Joy Offering**, which equally supports **the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions** and **racial ethnic schools and colleges of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**. Every congregation’s gifts to the Offering are critical to the future of these ministries. Here at NWPC the offering is being received today. You will find offering envelopes for this purpose in the pew racks.



**Advent Worship Bags** – for parents worshipping with children ages 4 to 8 or 9 years of age: The bags, one per family, can be picked up on the table in the Ligo Room by the elevator. A laminated note in the bag explains what is within the bag for your child to keep and what should be returned to the bag at the end of worship. The bags will be replenished each Sunday of Advent.

The **2017 Advent Devotional Booklet** was written by local area pastors, formatted and edited by Rev. Camlin. An electronic PDF version is available by emailing Kim Romig (kim@nwpresby.org).

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# Today

## Sunday, December 17, 2017 – Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am Sunday School classes for all ages!

10:30am **Worship** – Christmas Joy Offering received (*See announcement.*)

### 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Celebration

5pm – Dinner in the Social Hall

6pm – Program, *Christmas in the Airport*, takes off in the sanctuary

# This Week

## Monday (18)

2-6:30pm Community Red Cross Blood Drive, Rooms 214 & 215  
(*Note change in the time and in the rooms being used.*)

## Tuesday (19)

6pm JHYG, Social Hall

7pm AA Meeting, balcony Room 309 (at the top of the stairs)

## Wednesday (20)

6:30pm Session Meeting, Room 214

## Thursday (21)

6pm ♪ Chancel Choir, Choir Room ♪

7:30pm Worship Team, Sanctuary

# Next Sunday

## Sunday, December 24, 2017 – Christmas Eve Sunday



10:30am Worship

7:30pm Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

(*Please note time correction.*)

### Reminders:

- **Sunday School classes** will not meet on December 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Also, there will be **no Church Chums** on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Pledge Cards:** If you haven't done so, please **return your 2018 pledge card**. This enables our treasurer and Finance Committee to more accurately **create the budget for the various ministries** in the coming new year. Misplaced your pledge card? Copies are available on the Ligo Room lamp table nearest the treasurer's office. If more convenient, please send your pledge via email directly to Treasurer Kay Taylor (kay@nwpresby.org). Time and Talent commitment cards are also available.



**The United States of America is December's Mission Focus of the NWPC Mission Committee.** We display the smaller U.S. flag from the Ligo Room in the chancel area, drawing our attentions to the many missional outreaches that our Church supports throughout the nation.

The recent hurricanes led us to support not only Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, but we also entered into relationship with the congregation of the **First Presbyterian Church of Dickinson, TX**. Their church building was heavily damaged by the flood waters and in desperate need of building materials and replacement of the contents. Even during the clean up and rebuilding process, the church continues to run their diaper ministry for those in need. We thank Wayne & Peggy Gordon for being our liaisons and bringing us into relationship with this congregation.

The most recent request for assistance came from **Mr. Ken Jewell**, an administrator in our **New Wilmington School District**. During his vacation to the South Dakota Badlands, Mr. Jewell encountered a park ranger who was also a teacher in one of the nation's poorest schools, the **Wolf Creek Elementary School on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation**. Comparing teaching notes and districts, Ken became shockingly aware of the poverty and need of the children there. Pulaski Elementary School was closing and had 3,500+ books in its library that were no longer needed. Ken knew just the place for them, but how to get the books into the hands of the Indian children? He would need a truck, gas, and expense money. He would be the driver if he could get the necessary help. He presented his cause to the Board of Education and sought the help of individuals and local churches. Ken was given approval by the School Board to send the books. Churches and individuals granted the funds needed. Ken made the journey to South Dakota to share the books and while there saw a broader picture, a missional picture, to develop a relationship between the students in New Wilmington and the students at Wolf Creek School. Mr. Jewell hopes to foster that relationship with work trips to the reservation involving students and other community members. We are glad NWPC was able to help with this project that has far reaching missional implications.

Mission opportunities are endless, whether across the nation, around the world, or to our neighbor. We can be the hands and feet of Christ, bringing comfort, hope, and most importantly the good news of Jesus' love and salvation to a needy world.