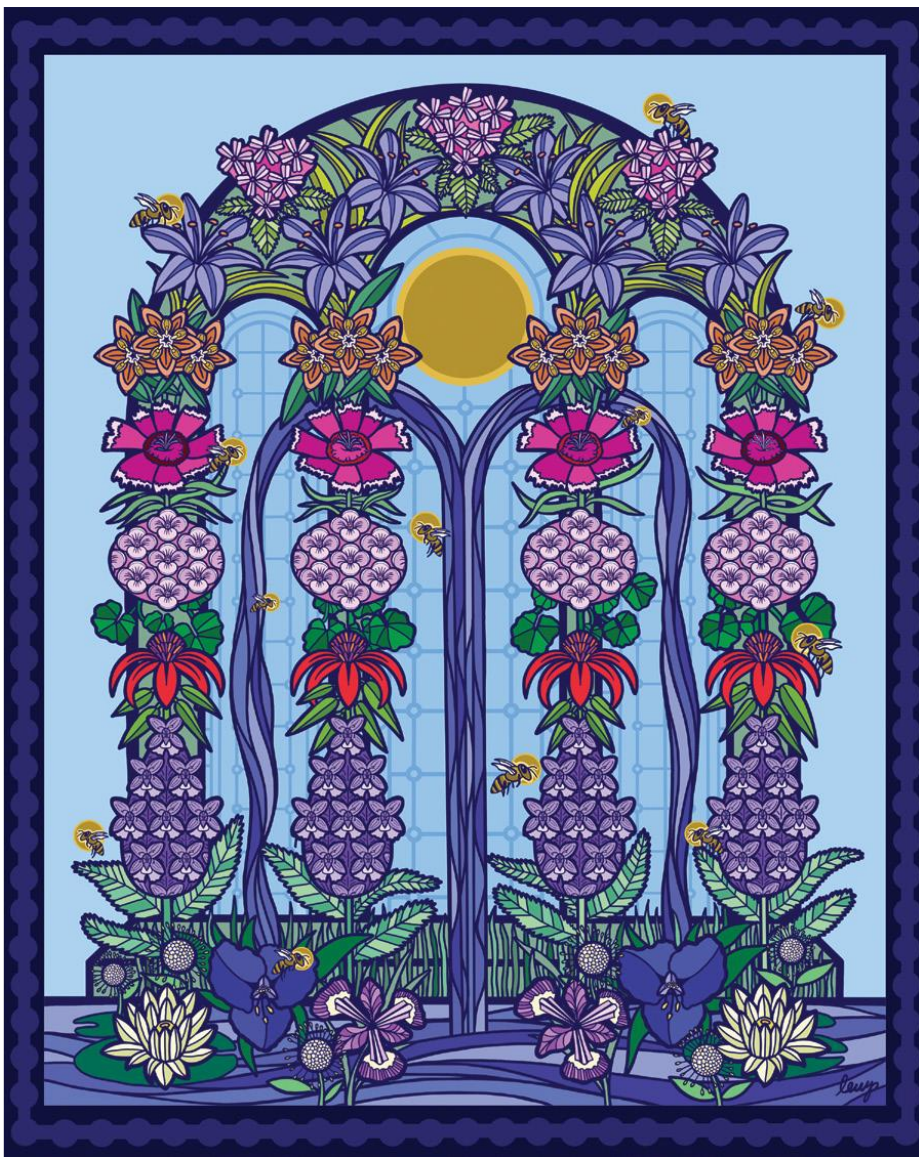


THE SERVICE FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Full Life in the Emptiest of Places by Lauren Wright Pittman

CONCORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1800 FAIRFAX BLVD.

WILMINGTON, DELAWARE 19803

(302) 654-9652

www.concordpc.org

info@concordpc.org

Guest Wi-Fi: *ConcordGuest*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 8, 2024

10:00 a.m.

* All who are able may stand

Congregation reads aloud the **BOLD** print

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?

arr. Mark Hayes

Sinae Yun Lee, piano

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

INTROIT

Veni Emmanuel

Plainsong

Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH: *THE CANDLE OF PEACE*

Raven & Steve Studer

One: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus. We worship God with joy in our hearts, as we are reminded of the words of the angel on that first Christmas: "Behold I bring you good news of great joy which will come to all people."

ALL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, BRING HOPE TO YOUR PEOPLE.

One: As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

ALL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, BRING PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE.

One: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

ALL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, BRING PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE.

One: Jesus said – Peace I give to you. I do not give as the world gives. Let your hearts be at peace.

ALL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, BRING PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE.

One: Today we light this candle to proclaim the coming of the Prince of Peace. Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel, is God with us. The presence of Christ with us brings peace day by day.

ALL: O COME, O COME EMMANUEL, BRING PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Carol Haas (she/her), liturgist

ALL: O PROMISED CHRIST: WE ARE A WORLD IN TURMOIL, NATIONS RISE UP AGAINST NATION, AND EVEN HERE, IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, WE TURN ON EACH OTHER. WE ARE TIRED AND LOST AND SEEK THE LIGHT WHICH BEGINS TO SHINE IN THE DARKNESS. WE TURN TO YOU FOR FROM YOU COMES OUR PEACE. WE ARE A BROKEN PEOPLE. OUR PARDON DEPENDS ON YOUR COMING. WE ARE FULL OF GOOD INTENTIONS BUT WEAK AT KEEPING PROMISES; OUR ONLY HOPE OF DOING GOD'S WILL IS THAT YOU SHOULD COME AND HELP US DO IT. LORD CHRIST, WORD MADE FLESH, OUR WORLD WAITS FOR YOUR HOPE, FOR YOUR PEACE, FOR YOUR PARDON, AND FOR YOUR GRACE. EVEN SO: COME, LORD JESUS. AMEN.

*RESPONSE (all sing)

Angels We Have Heard on High

NO. 113, refrain only

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

[Turn to those around you and share with them words and signs of peace.]

WONDERING TIME

Christina Pressley (she/her)

[Children remain in worship with their families. Quiet activities available in the back of the sanctuary.]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

ALL: GRACIOUS GOD, YOUR VISION OF PEACE AND WHOLENESS COMES TO US IN SWEEPING REVELATIONS AND IN TINY SIGNS OF HOPE. KINDLE OUR HEARTS, THAT WE MIGHT BE A HOPEFUL PEOPLE. KEEP US FROM GROWING WEARY OF WAITING SO THAT WE DO NOT MISS THE GLORY OF YOUR APPEARING. EVEN SO, COME QUICKLY, O GOD. AMEN.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:1-6 (NRSV)

One: The Word of God for the people of God.

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD.

SERMON

"Voices in the Wilderness" Pastor Eric Markman (he/him)

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

ALL: WE GATHER AROUND THE ADVENT WREATH TODAY KNOWING OUR OWN FAILINGS – WE ARE NOT PERFECT. WE MAKE MISTAKES AND DO BAD THINGS AND LIVE IN FEAR OF JUDGMENT.

ONLY JESUS OBEYED GOD FULLY. JESUS HAS OVERCOME ALL THAT SEPARATES US FROM GOD AND GIVES US STRENGTH AND COURAGE TO LIVE AS GOD WANTED US TO LIVE. BY HIS TRANSFORMATION OF OUR HEARTS, CHRIST BRINGS US PEACE.

ETERNAL GOD, WE THANK YOU THAT THROUGH ALL THE YEARS YOU HAVE GIVEN PEACE TO YOUR PEOPLE. HELP US TO HAVE YOUR PEACE IN OUR LIVES. WE PRAY THAT IN THIS ADVENT SEASON, WE MAY, BY WHAT WE DO, SHOW YOUR PRESENCE TO THE SICK, THE HUNGRY, AND THE LONELY, THAT THEY, TOO, MAY EXPERIENCE YOUR PEACE. AMEN

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

And the Glory of the Lord (*Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

Chancel Choir

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

***RESPONSE (all sing)**

What Child Is This

NO. 145, v. 3

SO BRING HIM INCENSE, GOLD, AND MYRRH; COME, ONE AND ALL, TO OWN HIM.

THE KING OF KINGS SALVATION BRINGS; LET LOVING HEARTS ENTHRONE HIM.

RAISE, RAISE THE SONG ON HIGH. THE VIRGIN SINGS HER LULLABY.

JOY, JOY, FOR CHRIST IS BORN, THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY!

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN NO. 121**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

vs. 1, 3, 4

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Carol of the Bells/Ukrainian Bell Carol
Sinae Yun Lee, piano

arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome visitors! We're glad you're here today. If you'd like to learn more about what's happening at Concord, how you can get involved, or how we can help or support you, fill out one of the Connection Cards in the pew with your contact information. You can place the card in the offering or give it to a greeter as you leave. The peace of Christ be with you.

About today's bulletin cover: *Full Life in the Emptiest of Places* by Lauren Wright Pittman (inspired by Isaiah 58:9b-12). Digital painting. © a sanctified art/sanctifiedart.org: *"After repeated readings of this text, I began to see a garden bursting out of a spring. I imagined the flowers working together to build a beautiful arched structure in a parched place. For me, the structure came to represent the rebuilt ruins in the text which create a safe space for restored communities to thrive.*

Metaphorically speaking, the health of the garden depends on the hard work of gardeners culling weeds (which in the Isaiah passage could be represented by removing the yoke, the pointing of fingers, and the speaking of evil). The garden also depends on adding necessary nutrients to the soil (offering food to the hungry and satisfying the needs of the afflicted). This is the good that is ours to do.

I have a difficult time considering an image complete without a person as the focal point..., so I decided to add bees floating and fluttering throughout this restored flower sanctuary. The community garden shelter provides nourishment for the twelve bees, which in turn provide for the whole ecosystem. When we do the good that is ours to do, our work in discipleship raises up the foundations of many generations. The whole community is uplifted when we lean into God's will in our life.

Assisting in the service of worship are:

Deacon-in-Charge: Steve Studer

Liturgist: Carol Haas

Greeter: Dick Carter

Livestream Team: Bob Brown, John Barineau, Nancy Tucker, Bonnie Twilley

Restrooms: All-gender, single stall handicap accessible restrooms can be found in the narthex and near Fellowship Hall. A baby changing table can be found in the one near Fellowship Hall. Men's and women's restrooms are located behind the chancel and near Jessie's Room. Feel free to use restrooms that conform to your gender identity.

J.A.M. Session



(Jesus and Me!)

No J.A.M. Session this Sunday. After Wondering Time, children will remain in worship with their families. There are quiet activities at the back of the sanctuary that children may take to the pews.

AdventFest



This Sunday, December 8 – 11:30am
(following 10:30am worship)

ENJOY...

❖ **Luncheon - \$10/person**

- Fran Ciabattoni's delicious pasta, meatballs, and sauce (gluten free available)
- Caesar Salad
- Roll
- Dessert

❖ **Free Make and Take crafts for all ages –**

- Nativity ornament
- Festive pinecone ornament
- Decorate a gingerbread man
- Decorate a walking stick (if you have a walking stick or find one, please bring it with you!)
- String an edible garland for the birds and squirrels to enjoy

❖ **Christmas Marketplace –**

- Porch Boards (back and front) with greeting such as "WELCOME," "MERRY," "JOY," "PEACE"
- Handmade items offered by Cynthia Miller from Water for Life, including jewelry and carved wood pieces

❖ **Christmas music**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Contributions for the Flower Fund for Christmas: If you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund for the upcoming holiday season, please make your check for \$20/poinsettia payable to Concord Church, memo: "Christmas Flowers." Place it in a designated envelope in the offering or the Church Office mailbox. Be sure to include a note stating how you wish the acknowledgment to read in the bulletin. Contributing to the grace and beauty of the Christmas decorations is a lovely way to remember or honor a loved one. Questions? [Contact the Church Office.](#)



Advent Is the Season of Giving!

We invite you to take part in this *Reverse Advent Calendar* activity to benefit our community! Instead of receiving a little daily gift as we count down the days to Christmas, we will *give back daily* by placing a non-perishable food item in a bag each day at our own homes.

Bring your items to church each Sunday in Advent and place them by the empty manger in the narthex.

We will be sharing these gifts with the community by placing them in the Blessing Box outside Concord Church.

Suggestions: SPAGHETTI SAUCE, dry pasta, canned tuna & chicken, cereal, PB&J, oatmeal packets, boxed mac & cheese, granola/protein bars. Smaller containers are best, as space inside the box is limited. (No glass or expired items, please.)



Share the Spirit!

Cock-a-doodle-do! Have we got a gift for you...

This Christmas, we are supporting the Chicken Project of the Guatemala Partnership of New Castle Presbytery. You can help give a woman in Guatemala a starter set of chickens which helps address food insecurity and provides women who live at a subsistence level with another source of income. Please make your contribution through Concord (memo Guatemala Chickens) or at <https://mailchi.mp/637434c252f3/gift-of-chicks-advent-2024>.



Concord Concert Series'

Annual Christmas Gala Concert

Sunday, December 15, 7:00pm

*featuring Handel's Messiah
and other Christmas favorites*

Profession chamber orchestra

Professional soloists and

The Concord Concert Choir

Concord Presbyterian Church (Sanctuary)

~ Free admission ~

An offering will be taken to benefit the Concert Series



Concert Reception Sign-Up

The concert reception is a wonderful way to provide fellowship after the performance, as well as show appreciation for all involved in the production. This year we would like to provide a variety of baked goods/sweet treats to enjoy. Thanks for making this possible!

Items can be dropped off in the kitchen next Sunday (12/15) in the morning or before the concert. If you'd like to drop off earlier, please label your food "MESSIAH" and place it directly in the Fellowship Hall kitchen freezer.

Feel free to email Dottie at dottielund@comcast.net with any questions.

WANTED: COOKIE BAKERS

Mary Circle will again be making Christmas cookies for the Friendship House transitional housing resident. We are hoping some Concord members would be willing to help by contributing five dozen or more. They can be frozen if you bake ahead. Bring the cookies to the kitchen at Concord by **Monday, December 16**. Label your container with your name

and that the cookies are for Friendship House (FH). NO PEANUTS IN THE COOKIES, PLEASE! Thanks for helping make the Friendship House Christmas Party a big success!!

