

*All who are able are invited to stand.

Please silence electronic devices.

3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (8:30)	<i>Lo, how a rose e'er blooming</i>	Anton Heiller
(11:00)	<i>A Christmas Canon</i>	Pachelbel, Benford
	Children's Handbell Choir	
	Johnathan Whited, bass	Jennifer Benford, harp

(Please use this time to pray and prepare your heart for worship.)

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE	(8:30) Ray and Jean Carroll
	(11:00) Alma Crone and Dot Hartzog

CHORAL INTROIT (11:00)	<i>O Love, How Deep</i>	Kathy Gladen Johnson
	Chancel Choir	

*CALL TO WORSHIP (from Psalm 145)	(8:30) David Martin	(11:00) Drayton Mayers
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Leader: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

People: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

Leader: Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

People: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God,

Leader: God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets the prisoners free.

People: The Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down. Praise the Lord today and always!

*HYMN 5	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	PICARDY
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*CONFESSION OF SIN (in unison)

Lord, you are the source of love, hope, and joy. You share these gifts with us in abundance. In our sin, we do not appreciate all that you provide. We fail to recognize your loving intentions, and we lose hope. We often live joylessly, focusing on what is wrong instead of all that is good. Give us grace to experience the joy of our salvation in Christ. Thank you for this season, and may our hope be renewed during this hour of worship.

(Time of silent examination, petition and reflection)

Leader: We pray in the name of the one who came to us as a tiny child, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE	HYFRYDOL
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Come, Thou long expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

THE WORD

*SHARING OF GRACE

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet those near you with an expression of grace as we worship together.)

CHILDREN'S CHOIR (11:00).	<i>The Peace You Bring</i>	Anne McNair
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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 35:1-10
 Pew Bible page 578 Adventure Bible page 787

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 11:2-6
 Pew Bible page 792 Adventure Bible page 1064

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON	Christmas Parades	Dr. Will Jones
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RESPONSE TO THE WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison – from *A Declaration of Faith*)

Jesus, the long expected Savior, came into the world as a child, descended from David, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of Mary, a virgin. He lived as a Jew among Jews. He announced to His people the coming of God's kingdom of justice and peace on earth.

We affirm that Jesus was born of woman as is every child, yet born of God's power as was no other child. In the person and work of Jesus, God Himself and a human life are united but not confused, distinguished but not separated. The coming of Jesus was itself the coming of God's promised rule. Through His birth, life, death, and resurrection, He brings about the relationship between God and humanity that God always intended.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES, OFFERINGS, AND OURSELVES

OFFERTORY	<i>Canticle of the Turning (Magnificat)</i> Irish melody	arr. Cooney
	Shannon Redburn, soprano	
	Aaron Redburn, guitar	Jennifer Benford, harp

*DOXOLOGY	VENI EMMANUEL
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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

*HYMN 8

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

TRURO

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL RESPONSE (11:00)

*POSTLUDE

The King Shall Come

Michael Burkhardt

WORSHIP ARTS TODAY

O Love, How Deep (Thomas à Kempis, 14th century)

O love, how deep, how broad, how high! It fills the heart with ecstasy, that God, the Son of God, should take our mortal form for mortals' sake. Lully, lulla, lullay. He sent no angel to our race of higher or of lower place, but wore the robe of human frame Himself, and to this lost world came. Lully, lulla, lullay. To Him whose boundless love has won salvation for us through his Son, to God the Father, glory be, the glory both now and in eternity. Lully, lulla, lullay.

Canticle of the Turning (Paraphrase of the Magnificat: Luke 1:46-58)

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that You bring to the one who waits. You fixed Your sight on the servant's plight, and my weakness You did not spurn, so from east to west shall your name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

(Refrain) My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, You work great things in me. And Your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and those who would for You yearn, You will show Your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for Your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; these are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. *(Refrain)*

4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebearers heard is the promise that holds us bound, 'til the spear and rod be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. *(Refrain)*

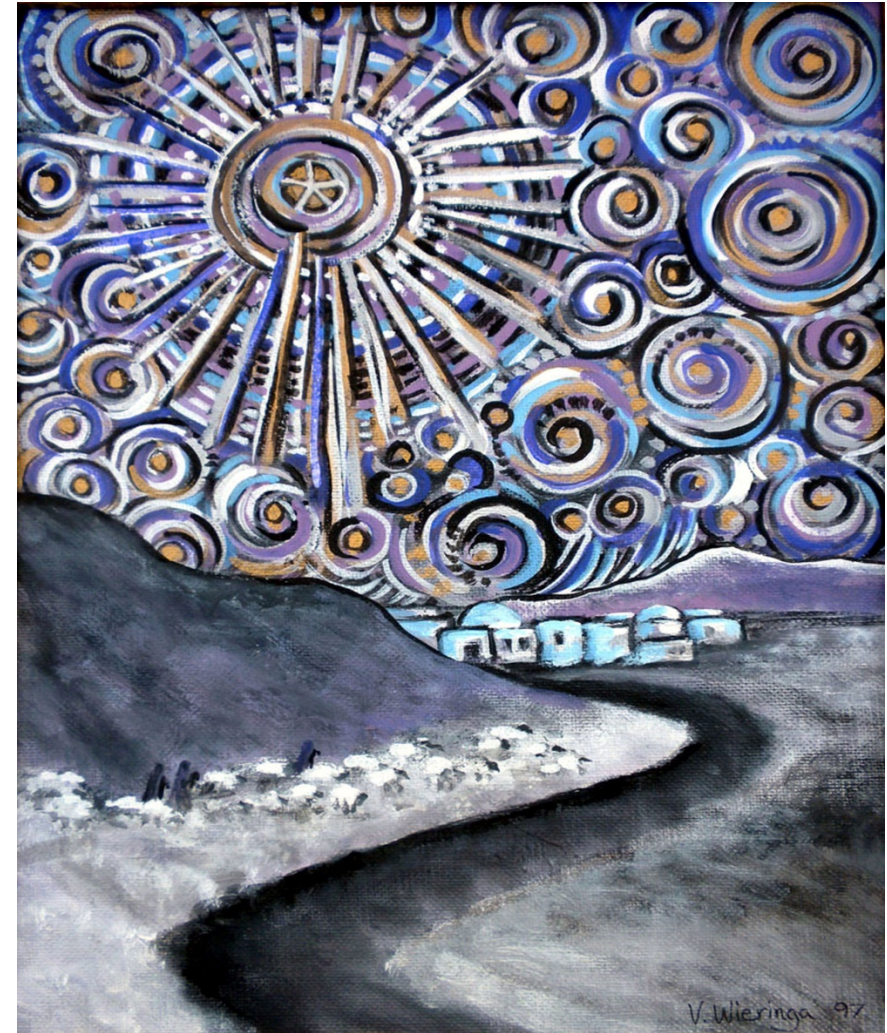
On the cover: Advent Starry Night, 1. Virginia Wieringa, 1997. Used with permission.

The rose on the chancel is given to the glory of God in celebration of the birth of Alexander Weston Askew to his parents, Candace and Graham Askew, and his grandparents, Amy & Barry Phillips.

The flowers this morning are given to the glory of God and by Martha Mayers in loving memory of her brother, Steven Berrell, who was a victim of the terrorist bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, December 21st, 1988.

Welcome to worship at Germantown Presbyterian Church. Our sincere prayer is that you will find a place here among those who already call GPC home. If you have any needs or questions, please consult one of the ushers. We are truly glad God brought you here!

Interested in joining GPC? *You are welcome here!* For more information on how to become a member, please contact Anne Tansil at 901-754-7957, 901-826-5437(cell) or Ltansil@bellsouth.net.



December 15, 2019

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