

PRELUDE

Ann Kipper

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT WREATH

Ann and Charity

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4

Congregation:

**We wait as people who experience hardship and pain,
yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that
sustains our life as God's people.**

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-23

HYMN

Candle of Hope

TUNE #73

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

*The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.*

*The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.*

*The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.*

PRAYER

Tara Bulger

via Presbyterian Outlook (c)

**Gracious God, for generations, the scriptures
have brought love and life to your people.
Speak to us now; we pray that we may hear,
and in hearing, we may be transformed. Amen.**

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Pastor

HYMN

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

215

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

adapted from FotW

**Merciful God, you love justice;
You have given us the gift of your Spirit;
You have given us the words of the prophets
and have pitched your tent in our midst as the Word himself;
You have given us light in our darkness;
why, then, have we preferred our own ways?
Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden
until righteousness and praise spring up,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.
{silent prayers}**

via GBoD/DM

*Beloved, hear this good news: God's love never fails,
and is always at work to bring us back to God and one another.
through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!*

**May God restore us to
the joy of our common life now and always. Amen.**

CHOIR

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

240

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Savior God, guide us by your Word and Spirit
that we might hear your truth, heed your call and
be prepared for Christ's coming this Christmas. Amen.**

SERMON

HYMN

Joy to the World

246

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTERCESSIONS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER

(Mark 13:24-37)

GBOD/DM

God of hope and compassion:

Just as John the Baptist came long ago
in Judea to witness to your light,
we remember that light he heralds is the savior of hope.

Sometimes it seems our world
is determined to extinguish hope and light.

We admit that there are times when we feel
the darkness is just too prevalent, too strong,
and hope is just wishful thinking.

May we witness through our giving not scarcity and despair
but fierce joy, hope, and compassion.

May we also witness through what we say and what we do.
In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Go Forth for God

670

CHARGE & BLESSING

*Beloved, may you be blessed with fierce, tenacious joy that in all things
— the highs, the lows, the celebrations, and the sorrow —
you may hold fast to and be held fast by
the good news of Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah.*

Amen

POSTLUDE

Rick's Selection(s)

Bulletin Credits: Some of the Liturgy is by the pastor (*dwh*)

That which is by others is used with permission.

or Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, used with permission, from her website.

or via Discipleship Ministries (**GBOD**), from the Worship Website.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

or from Feasting on the Word (eg **FotW** - see also insert)

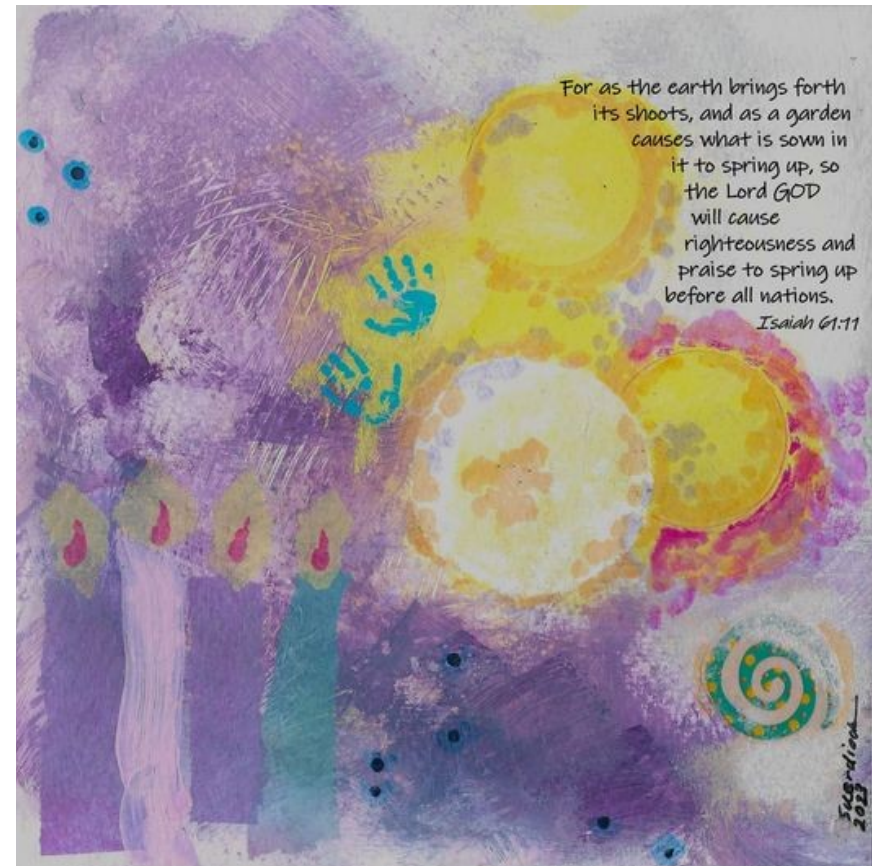
or from the Book of Common Prayer, (**BCP** - public domain).

or from presbyterian authors, via Presbyterian Outlook (**nnn/PO**)

or from other sources as noted.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Today we light the candle of joy.



For as the earth brings forth
its shoots, and as a garden
causes what is sown in
it to spring up, so
the Lord GOD
will cause
righteousness and
praise to spring up
before all nations.
Isaiah 61:11

art by Rev. Chris Suerdieck, BWC

December 17, 2023 - 11:00am

Clarksburg United Methodist Church

23425 Spire St., Clarksburg, Maryland

<https://www.facebook.com/clarksburgmduc/>

Accompanist: Rick Beede

Choir Director: Cathy Warfield

Pastor: Rev. David Hodsdon

➤ Cell Phone: 240 676 7825

➤ Email: revdwhodsdon@gmail.com

➤ www.youtube.com/@davehodsdon3533



Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary

Year B – Third Week of Advent; December 17, 2023

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press
from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2015*

Scriptures

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalms 126 or Luke 1:46b–55

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Questions for Reflection

John 1:6–8, 19–28 reminds us that we are not the light,
but with John we are called to testify as witnesses to the light,
who is Jesus Christ. The verb “to bear witness” occurs thirty-three
times in the Fourth Gospel!

How can you bear witness, in this season of lights, to the true Light
who has come into the world?

Morning Prayers: *Isa. 61*

Light of the world, you greet me this morning with new possibilities.
Shine brightly, I pray, until I see into the dark places of this world,
and into the dark places of my own life.

I want to follow you in paths of justice,
speak up with you for liberty,
and bend with you toward the brokenhearted,
even the broken places within myself.

I trade in my faint spirit for your mantle of praise—
and with my whole being I will rejoice in you. Amen.

Evening Prayers:

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day.
Let me dream this night of all the great things you have done.
As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow,
I give thanks for the greater Light no darkness can overcome.
To anyone who mourns, or sits in prison, or fears danger this night,
bring the peace that only you can give.

You are faithful, and I know you will do this.
In Christ. Amen.

Announcements & Notes

ANY area

**where you have an interest & willingness to serve,
please let us know.**

More Calendar Notes

- December 18: WCUMC Newsletter content is due. See Pat
1pm – Celebration of Life: Jens Knutson (CUMC)
at Milton Ridge in Hyattstown
- December 20: 7pm – Longest Night / Blue Christmas
- December 21: 10am – Morning Study Group at Dinah's home.
7pm – WCUMC Administrative Board
- December 24: 9:30a Wesley Chapel Morning Worship – Advent 4
11:00a Clarksburg UMC Morning Worship – Advent 4
7:00p Clarksburg UMC Christmas Eve Worship
9:00p Wesley Chapel Christmas Eve Worship
- December 31: First Sunday of Christmas – New Years Eve

If there are other calendar notes, please email the pastor...

Prayer Concern Notes

**What NEW thing would you like to see
the church try to do next year?**