Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
4th Sunday of Advent
December 18, 2022
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

You'll discover that real love is millions of miles past falling in love with anyone or anything. When you make that one effort to feel compassion instead of blame or self-blame, the heart opens again and continues opening. Sara Paddison, Hidden Power of the Heart

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (seated)
The Hamilton Family

One voice: Our Advent journey has brought us here, to this day.
Many voices: We have watched and waited together.
We await the birth of the Promised One.

(The fourth candle, the Candle of Love, is lit.)

One voice: The God of Hope, of Peace, of Joy, of Love
Has promised to meet us here.
Many voices: May God's love be born in us anew.
Glory to God on high!

ALL: Let us worship God!

***HYMN 104** "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1653
Music: Melchior Teschner, 1614
VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

THE CALL TO CONFESSION **Dennis Stockdale**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

God of today and tomorrow, when Mary was pregnant and afraid, she ran to her cousin Elizabeth's house. Elizabeth threw open the door with joy and showered blessings upon her.
How often do we have that same opportunity?
How often do we leave the door locked, the curtains drawn, and the lights off?
How often do we shower critiques or judgement instead of blessings and joy?
Gracious god, forgive us for our wrongs. We want to see you when we see our neighbor. Amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, this is what I know-
God delights in us.
God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,
"Come on home. There is room for you here!"
And in that moment, we are blessed.
In that moment, we are forgiven.
In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.
So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Let us respond together, using the words from Mary's song:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant,
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 7:10-16

SOLO "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" **Rachel Sparling**

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 1:39-45; 56-58

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"At the Threshold"

***HYMN 100** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
Text: Rory Cooney, 1990
Music: Irish melody, 1990
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

We believe that creation is inextricably linked.
We belong to one another in an undeniable way.
We are bone of bone and flesh of flesh,
life breathed into dust.
We believe that God invites us to live into that truth—
To love without abandon,
To see the good in one another,
To trust that all belong to God.
We know that this life of connection is easier said than done,
Which is why we gather in this space, week after week,
Generation after generation, to be reminded:
We see God in each other.
This we believe. Amen.

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 110** "Love Has Come"
Text: Ken Bible, 1996
Music: French melody, 2012
BRING A TORCH

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

THE POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery, Associate in Ministry
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Advent Candle Lighters: The Hamilton Family
Liturgist: Dennis Stockdale
Elder of the Day: Susan Laney

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WELCOME VISITORS! If you are worshiping here for the first time today, welcome! We are glad to have you with us on this joyous day.

PRAYERS GO OUT FOR: The Hamilton family, on Dr. Will Hamilton's death; Walt Roberts, Fran & Burnace's son; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Kip Smith, Tacci's father; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Bartley and Phyllis Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother and sister in law; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Jon's mother, Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

OFFERING We will not receive a formal offering during our service however, there are offering plates as you enter the sanctuary, or you may mail your offering to: Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
101 Chapel Lane, Swannanoa, NC 28778, or make donations directly and securely on our website by going to, warrenwilsonchurch.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL The playground will open at 9:30 and we will start WELCOMEinteractive lessons based on the Worship text of the day, plus time for music and fellowship. All are welcome!

A NOTE ABOUT OUR LITURGY The Call to Confession, the Prayer of Confession, the Words of Forgiveness and the Affirmation are adapted from liturgy written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

WELCOME VIRGINIA! Our guest organist Virginia McKnight has degrees from Stetson University and Florida State University as well as a Certificate from the Neuchatel Conservatory in Neuchatel, Switzerland**.** She has made a career of collaborative piano including work at Yale University. Ithaca College, Cornell University and in New York City. Before moving to Asheville, Virginia taught and accompanied at Stetson University. In Asheville, She has worked as pianist at the Asheville Community Theater, Haywood Arts Repertory Theater, Southern Appalachian Repertory Theater, Mars Hill University, UNC Asheville, and Reynold's High School. Virginia is retired from her position of Organist and Music Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, but continues to cover services when needed.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS This year, we have Advent devotionals available in hard copy for you in the Narthex, or through the link that went out with our service information. Enjoy!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING Today we will collect our Christmas Joy special offering. You may use the envelope attached to your bulletin, and drop it in the offering plate as you leave. Thanks, in advance to you for your generous giving!

CHRISTMAS CRAFT CELEBRATION Our Christmas Craft party will be held today, December 18, following the service in Fellowship Hall. Children of all ages are welcome to come join in the fun!

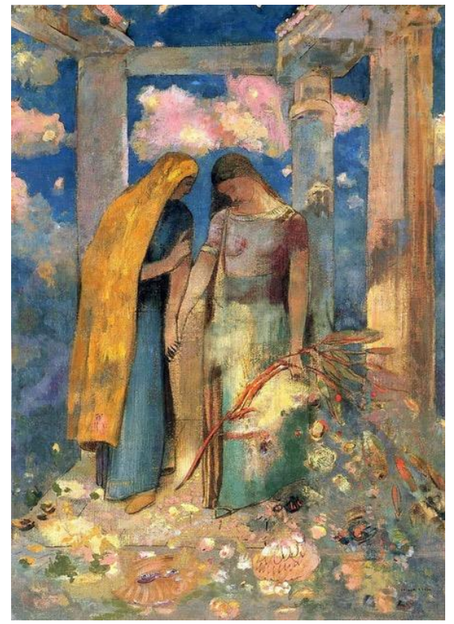
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Our Family Friendly Candlelight Creche service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Join us for what we trust will be a wonderful variation on one of our most beloved services of the year.

CHRISTMAS DAY Our service on Christmas day will begin at 11:00a.m. and will be centered around a short Christmas story and hymn sing with your favorite Christmas hymns. We will also have hot chocolate available for you to enjoy!

EPIPHANY SERVICE Join us for our Epiphany service at 11:00 a.m. on January 1, 2023. We'll distribute "Star Words" for contemplation over the new year.

COVER IMAGE Mystical Conversation, by Odilon Redon, 1896

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December 18, 2022

Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

101 Chapel Lane
Swannanoa, NC 28778
(828) 298-9092
www.warrenwilsonchurch.org

At Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church we are mothers and fathers, single and married, gay and straight, young and old, black and white, prosperous and poor, uncertain and sure, broken and whole -- and everything in between. Together we are the many faces of humanity, yet as a joyful, caring and loving community of faith, we are one in Christ!