Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
2nd Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Peace cannot be achieved through violence, it can only be attained through understanding." Ralph Waldo Emerson

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MOMENT FOR MISSION **Jamie Dale**

THE PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (seated)

One voice: Our Advent journey has begun.
Today we continue our journey into the gathering dark.
Many voices: In darkness we find rest.
In darkness our dreams are born.

(The second candle, the candle of Peace, is lit.)

One voice: The prophet foretells that, in time, the wolf
Will lie down with the lamb, war will be no more.
Many voices: In this season of Advent, we wait and we dream
And we pray for peace on earth, good will to all.

Sung response: (*Congregation and Choir sing together*)

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rjoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

All: Come, O God of peace, and be with us and for us.

***HYMN 378** "We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom"
MERLE'S TUNE

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)**

God of laughter, God of open front doors and family reunions,
We confess that we often doubt good news.
We move through this world
Waiting for the other shoe to drop,
Waiting for life to fall apart,
Waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.

Instead of leaning into joy, we lean into scarcity.
We lean into fear.
We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.
Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
And teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.
Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

Family of faith,
no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,
no matter how many times we ask ourselves, *"How can this be?"*
God's love keeps showing up for us.
We are loved. We are claimed.
We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Amen.

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL
All those children and youth who are present are invited to come forward at this time.

A READING FROM THE PROPHETS Isaiah 11:1-10

THE ANTHEM *An Advent Alleluia* Douglas E Wagner
Text, Charles Wesley

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. Alleluia.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King.
Born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring. Alleluia.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 1:26-38

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"Before and After"

***HYMN 129** "Lo, how a Rose E'er Blooming"
ES IST EIN' ROS'

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

We believe in God,
creator and lover of the earth,
origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—
God coming to us
in the fragile promise
of a baby yet unborn—
who emerges as the herald of hope,
And calls us to be people of peace.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who implants the seed of truth,
brings us to birth
as the body of Christ,
and empowers us
to be God's light in this world,
to make peace, to do justice and to love our neighbors.

We believe in the coming reign of God,
announced by the Baptist,
incarnate in Jesus,
made real today in God's newborn people,
the Body of Christ. Amen. —by Nathan Nettleton (adapted)

THE PASTORAL PRAYER

***HYMN 100** "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"
STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

***THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF
Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Minister
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Donna Eagle Joslin, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts, Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Candle Lighters: John Bishop, Brent Roberts
Liturgist: Anne Dale
Coffee Hour Hosts: Pat Wilson, Sandy Stanford
Elder of the Day: Bob Gambrell

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THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

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: Betty Smith's family, on her death; Martha, and the Dugger family, on Lee's death; Sally Broughton; Derron Daugherty and family, on his accident; Beth Newman; Susan Runholt, Steve's sister; Salyna Morgan; Blake Joslin and his parents, Carol Lee and Brooks; Houston Huggins, Beth Meriwether's brother; Bartley Spencer, Sandy Brauer's brother; Jackie Wintle's sister, Judy Reynolds; Pat Crumpler; Shane Reece, Nancy Garrison's son; Pat Wilson's son, Kell; Erika Lytle; Jackie Ligon Cole; Rick Garrison; Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs; Flo Bishop; Jon Hettrick and his family; Marjorie Hettrick; Kim Reece, daughter of Nancy and Rick Garrison.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship today, December 10th, for the purpose of electing next year's class of ruling elders.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
December 10, Blue Ridge Orchestra Concert 3:00 pm Chapel (tickets required)
December 17, Wassail & Celebration 12-2:00 pm Fellowship Hall
December 24, service at 11:00 am Chapel
December 24, Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols 7:00 pm Chapel

BLUE RIDGE ORCHESTRA The Blue Ridge Orchestra will hold its annual BRO Revels! concert featuring a blend of classical works combined with seasonal favorites in the Chapel today, December 10. The concert begins at 3:00 pm and will continue until 5:00 pm with an intermission in the middle. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to **Info:** https://blueridgeorchestra.org/bro-revels-2023-dec-23

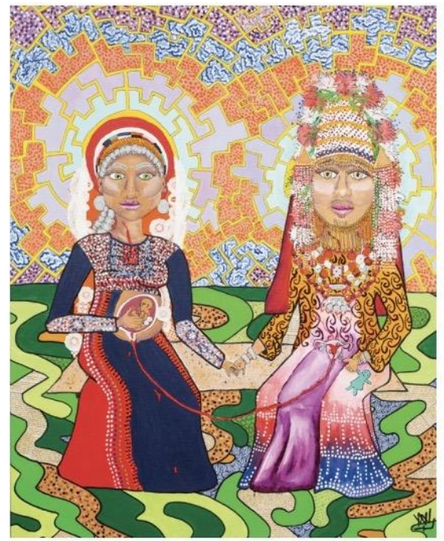
WASSAIL AND CELEBRATION Wassail and farewell party on December 17th! Please bring a generous serving of your favorite holiday finger foods to enjoy at our annual Wassail event that is in conjunction with Steve and Robyn's farewell celebration in Fellowship Hall following our service! We are looking forward to this event!

A SANCTIFIED ART Portions of our liturgy today were developed by the Rev. Sarah Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

WWPC Online Directory Warren Wilson Presbyterian is implementing online access to our directory and calendar for church members. This will not only save paper and toner but will provide up to date information when accessed online, or on your phone. Look for information and a link to instructions in the December newsletter.

ABOUT THE COVER IMAGE Two Mothers by Nicolette Peñaranda.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



December 10, 2023

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!