Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
1st Sunday of Advent
December 3, 2023
11:00 a.m.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

"Hope is the dream of a soul awake." French Proverb

THE GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (seated)

One voice: In a world marked by conflict and scarcity,
Where innocent people suffer and hope is elusive,
O God, we call upon you to come.
Many voices: In a world where so many have lost hope,
We call upon you, O God of hope, to come.

(The first candle, the candle of Hope, is lit.)

One voice: In this season of Advent,
We wait for the coming of Hope into our world.
We await the birth of the Christ-child,
The coming of God into our lives in a new way.

Sung response: (verse 1 only) **#88**
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

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

***HYMN 82** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
HYFRYDOL

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

Gracious God, we are weary.
For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:
Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.
Remind us that we deserve Sabbath rest.
For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:
Forgive us for creating so many distractions.
Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.
For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:
Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.
Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.
For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,
Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.
Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. 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 40:27-31

THE ANTHEM *How Will We Know Him* Charlotte Algozoin
Beth Meriwether, Flute

How will we know him when he comes: How will we know Emmanuel?
Will he be a mighty king, a crown upon his head?
Or will he be a tiny child, sleeping beside his mother mild;
Angels and shepherds kneeling at his manger bed?

Where will we find him when he comes? Where will we find Emmanuel?
Will he be in a palace sitting on a throne of gold?
Or will the Wise Men from afar find him beneath a shining star;
Cattle and sheep around him in a stable cold?

Will he rule with a mighty hand; nations and armies at his command?
Or will this Child of humble birth teach us to live in peace on earth?
What can we give him when he comes? What can we give Emmanuel?
How can we ever show him that we want to do our part?

He has no need for earthly things; Silver and gold and jeweled rings.
All he would have us give him is a loving heart.

A READING FROM THE GOSPELS Luke 1:1-13

THE SERMON **Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt**
"Not Just Any Words"

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

When nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom,
The end is not violence:
For there is a God of resilient, redeeming love,
a Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows,
and the darkness cannot smother it.
This, O God of hope, we believe.

When there are earthquakes, famines and floods
And collisions among the stars,
The end is not chaos:
For the creator of the heavens and the earth has not forsaken us,
And light will again shine out of the darkness

When our hopes are deferred,
And peace and justice seem but a distant dream
The end is not despair;
For the Spirit is at work to give birth to impossible dreams
This, O God of hope, we believe.

Written by Bruce Prewer (adapted)

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

***THE INVITATION**

***HYMN 87** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"
GENEVAN 42

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts
People: We lift them up to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise…

LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)
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;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER

***HYMN 79** "Light Dawns on a Weary World"
TEMPLE OF PEACE

***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: Tacci & Izzy Presnell-Smith
Liturgist: Carla Greenfield
Coffee Hour Hosts: Anne Dale
Elder of the Day: Kay Stockdale

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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; Martha, and the Dugger family, on Lee's death; 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 on December 10th for the purpose of electing next year's class of ruling elders.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
December 5, Cookies & Carols 7:00 pm Fellowship Hall
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

COOKIES AND CAROLS Join us on Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall to enjoy treats, and sing Christmas Carols around the piano. Bring your favorite cookies to share. All are welcome!

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 on 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

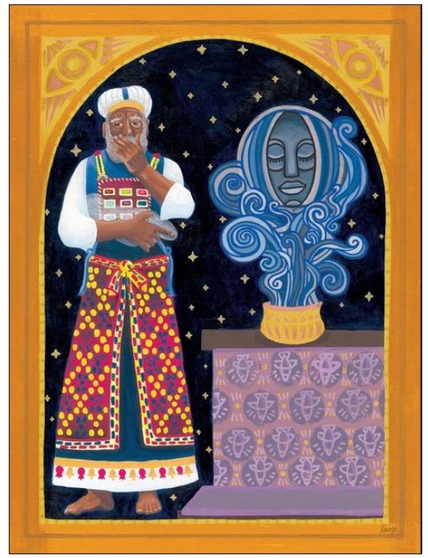
WASSAIL AND CELEBRATION Wassail and farewell party on December 17th! Please bring a generous serving of your favorite holiday finger foods to enjoy at our annual Wassail event that is in conjunction with Steve and Robyn's farewell celebration in Fellowship Hall following our service! We are looking forward 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 *Annunciation to Zechariah* by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church



December 3, 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!