

Warren Wilson

Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024



“Advent is a time in which we are invited to turn our attention to the fact that we are recipients of a promise. As a culture we seem to have little time for promises of the sort held out in Old Testament times, promises whose telling plunges us deep into the wideness and mercy of God. Instead, we attend to promises of a much more limited and transient nature: Buy this cosmetic and you will find beauty....Drive this model of car and you will achieve power. Attain this degree or that position and you will find fulfillment....To put it succinctly, as a culture we have co-opted our own ability to articulate and dream out of the most fundamental longings of our hearts.”

The Vigil, Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming
Wendy M. Wright

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024 11:00 AM

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

***THE COMING OF THE LIGHT** Cindy and Dennis Riley

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace.
Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. . . . we open
ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us.

Sung Response

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Loving God, we open ourselves to you,
trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled lives.
Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained,
but must be shared.
Transform us, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

***HYMN 103** “Come Now, O Prince of Peace”
O-SO-SO

1 Come now, O Prince of Peace;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

2 Come now, O God of love;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

3 Come now and set us free,
O God, our Savior.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

4 Come, hope of unity;
make us one body.
Come, O Lord Jesus;
reconcile all people.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Holy One,
We imagine you might meet us in safe and predictable ways.
Instead, you ask us to follow a path we cannot see,
trusting that you will light the way.**

**As you came to David in the fields,
to Mary in her youth,
to Joseph in his dreams,
meet us in this place
that we, too, might be vessels for your desire.**

**In freedom, overshadow us;
In love, dwell among us;
In power, send us out—
until the whole world rings with the good news of your coming.**

Silent prayer

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

...in the name of Jesus, the resurrection and the life, let us
declare:

**Our stories are known; our sins are forgiven;
our work has just begun.**

***RESPONSE FOR PEACE**

sung to tune #110

*Joy has come; a light in the darkness!
Joy shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how our song of praise arises: Joy! Joy!
Born unto you, a Savior! Joy! Joy! Glory to God on high.*

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

Children and youth are invited to come forward.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ken Murchison

FIRST READING

Isaiah 12:2-6

ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Richard Shephard

*The holly and the ivy, When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, The holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a blossom As white as lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To be our sweet Savior.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.*

*The holly bears a berry As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ To do us sinners good.*

*The holly bears a bark As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ On Christmas Day in the morn.
The rising of the sun And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, Sweet singing in the choir.*

SECOND READING

Luke 1:26-38

SERMON

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

***HYMN 101**

“No Wind at the Window”

COLUMCILLE

Choir will sing the first verse, congregation will join after

1 No wind at the window,
no knock on the door;
no light from the lampstand,
no foot on the floor;
no dream born of tiredness,
no ghost raised by fear:
just an angel and a woman
and a voice in her ear.

2 "O Mary, O Mary,
don't hide from my face.
Be glad that you're favored
and filled with God's grace.
The time for redeeming
the world has begun,
and you are requested
to mother God's Son."

3 "This child must be born
that the kingdom might come:
salvation for many,
destruction for some;
both end and beginning,
both message and sign;
both victor and victim,
both yours and divine."

4 No payment was promised,
no promises made;
no wedding was dated,
no blueprint displayed.
Yet Mary, consenting
to what none could guess,
replied with conviction,
"Tell God I say, Yes."

***AFFIRMATION**

A Declaration of Faith, chapter 7

**The church's story with God did not end
with the latest events recorded in Scripture.
Across the centuries the company of believers
has continued its pilgrimage with the Lord of history.
It is a record of faith and faithlessness, glory and shame.**

**We confess we are heirs of this whole story.
We are charged to remember our past,
to be warned and encouraged by it,
but not to live it again.**

**Now is the time of our testing
as God's story with the church moves forward through us.
We are called to live now as God's servants
in the service of people everywhere.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

***HYMN 79**

**“Light Dawns on a Weary World”
TEMPLE OF PEACE**

1 Light dawns on a weary world
when eyes begin to see
all people's dignity.
Light dawns on a weary world:
the promised day of justice comes.

Refrain:

The trees shall clap their hands;
the dry lands, gush with springs;
the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing!
We shall go out in joy,
and be led forth in peace,
as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

2 Love grows in a weary world
when hungry hearts find bread
and children's dreams are fed.
Love grows in a weary world:
the promised feast of plenty comes.

3 Hope blooms in a weary world
when creatures, once forlorn,
find wilderness reborn.
Hope blooms in a weary world:
the promised green of Eden comes.

***CHARGE** (responsive)

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**We will seek to know joy,
And make that our gift to the world.**

Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

**We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.**

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

*Please stand as you are able

CHURCH STAFF

Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
Ted Stewart, Interim Director of Music
Andrew Tripp, Church Administrator
Leslie Sayyar, Brent Roberts; Treasurers
Barbara Escalante, Bookkeeper

Liturgist: Ken Murchison
Elder of the Day: Sharon Lytle
Coffee Hour Host: Griswolds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP Stewardship season is underway. Materials are in the narthex. We are grateful for all the ways you show your support and love in this place.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASS All are welcome. We meet Sundays at 9:30 in the Adult Education class. Join us!

COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS: If you would like to add or update a prayer request, please contact the church office.

We celebrate: New roofs! (Complete on one building, in progress on the other!) ◦ **Access to our newly-refurbished Fellowship Hall**, just in time for Cookies and Carols! ◦ **All who helped decorate our Chapel space**, including **Brent Roberts, John Bishop, Vicki and Don Collins**, and **Rachel Sparling** ◦ **Rachel Sparling** for the gift of two tables to aid in the serving of communion. ◦ **The Congregational Life Team** for hosting last week's Wassail celebration ◦ a **beautiful new piano in the Chapel** thanks to the diligent work of **Beth Meriwether, Ken Murchison, Brent**

Roberts, Wayne Smith, and most especially, Ted Stewart. We remember gratefully **Steven Williams, beloved organist and choir director for more than 30 years,** whose bequest made this possible.

We remember in prayer: The family of **Carol Lee Joslin, Blake Joslin's mother,** following her death on December 10 ◦ the family of **Vernon Daugherty, Derron's father,** following his death on November 17 ◦ **Dina Taylor, Barbara Escalante's sister,** recovering from surgery in California on December 2, for a brain bleed. ◦ **Wynee Bullerdick, daughter of Rodney and Sharon Lytle** as she collaborates with her doctor to determine the cause of her illness. ◦ all who continue to be affected by loss caused by recent storms. In our congregation, we remember especially **Andrew Tripp, Cindy and Dennis Riley, Jackie Wintle, Joyce Cucinella, and Bob, the father of Natalie's partner Jeff** ◦ **Donna Eagle Joslin,** healing from wrist surgery. ◦ **Amanda Branscombe,** as she continues to recover from spinal fusion surgery ◦ **Bill Christy,** as he continues to heal following a heart transplant ◦ **Susan Laney,** receiving therapy at home ◦ **Bubba Lytle, Rodney and Sharon's son,** making excellent progress recovering from a serious motorcycle accident ◦ **Thurman Slone, Joyce Cucinella's brother,** now under Hospice care ◦ **Jackie Ligon Cole** ◦ **Pat Crumpler** ◦ **Martha Dugger** ◦ **Rick Garrison** ◦ **Houston Huggins (Beth Meriwether's brother)** ◦ **Erika Lytle** ◦ **Fran Roberts' sister-in-law, Linda Briggs** ◦ **Jon Hettrick and his family** ◦ **Marjorie Hettrick** ◦ **Shane Reece (Nancy Garrison's son)** ◦ **Pat Wilson's son, Kell**

A/V TRAINING We are building a team of folks to run the soundboard and live stream for our Sunday morning services. If you're curious to know whether that might be a fit for you, training will be offered for **30-45 minutes after worship today.**

AN INVITATION TO SINGERS Singers are invited to the WWPC Chapel Choir for the Christmas Season. No auditions, just show up at choir rehearsals on Wednesdays 7:00 PM in the Choir Loft. Contact **Ted Stewart, (816) 305-1038, stewart.smith@att.net.**

TOGATHER You are invited to join the *Togather* group meeting December 19 at 6:30 in the Chapel Parlor.

HURRICANE RELIEF Session has set up a **fund to provide aid to neighbors most affected by Hurricane Helene.** There are handouts in the narthex explaining these giving opportunities.

COOKIES AND CAROLS Today at **4:00** we will celebrate a festive holiday tradition in the Fellowship Hall: **Cookies and Carols!** Bring some goodies to share with the students!

END OF YEAR GIFTS If you plan to make a year-end gift, please note these deadlines. To have your gifts counted as 2024 income, you must postmark your checks (or deliver them to the church) by December 31. For online gifts, the Presbyterian Foundation must process the payment by December 31.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING The session has called a **congregational meeting immediately following worship today**, for the purposes of electing officers.

Elder (class of 2027): **Chrisann Ohler** and **Leslie Saayar**.

Nominating Committee (class of 2025): **Elaine Barnes, Barbara Griswold, and Rodney Lytle**.

Nominations from the floor are in order as long as you have the permission of your nominee.

Cover: The Annunciation, Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1898, pub. domain



Warren Wilson
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WarrenWilsonPC



WarrenWilsonPresbyterianChurch



@WarrenWilsonPC

*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!*