



December 11, 2022 | 10:30 A.M.  
Third Sunday in Advent

#### READING OR PRAYER OF THE DAY

"Dr. Russell Murdoch (1839-1905; deacon, elder) prayed for a son who would not only follow in his footsteps as a physician, but live his unfulfilled dream of becoming a medical missionary. Instead, God sent him four daughters: Charlotte, Agnes, Mary, and Margaret. They were born in the late 1870-s and early 1880s, when women generally did not enter the professions. All four went to Goucher College, two became medical doctors... During their thirty-four years in China, the Murdoch sisters were confronted with severe floods, famine, civil wars, communist troop activities, and the invasion of China by the Japanese. One of their most outstanding achievements was the rescue of abandoned baby girls left by their mothers at the mission church. These children were raised in the Christian faith, fed and clothed and given a home. Many of these so-called "Temple Babies" grew up to be teachers, doctors, and evangelists themselves."

~From "A Baker's Dozen of Historical Minutes, From the 225th Anniversary of the First and Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, 1761-1986," pp. 29-30.

#### PRELUDE

As with Gladness Men of Old

Tune: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. Larry Sue

The First & Franklin Handbell Choir

#### GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

#### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Bill & Corena Bridges

On this day we enact and remember God's Light coming into the world –  
Breaking through the shadows of our brokenness and loneliness:  
We light this first candle of joy for the coming of an unexpected Messiah –  
In wonder at the One who came once and is still promised.  
We live for that Presence to bring all nations and people together in healing and peace,  
When war is forgotten, and all exclaim at God's Beloved revealed in our midst.  
With all those who pushed to get close to God in Christ,  
Trusting that this new and wonderful Presence would make us whole,  
As we light this second candle, may we too enter into peace.  
In lighting the candle of love, we testify to God's love for his Son,  
Christ's compassionate love for others,  
And the incarnate love so revealed,  
That we might love as we were first loved –  
By God's undying love.

SUNG RESPONSE *see insert*

Keep Your Lamps

Traditional Spiritual  
arr. André Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Isaiah 58: 10-12)

One: This is the day the Lord has made:

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

One: Let us worship God.

*stand, as able*

HYMN OF PRAISE 451

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones  
*Stanzas 1, 2, and 4*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*all are seated*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: **God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us, as light shining through shadows. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. O Lord, hear our prayers.**

*There follows a moment of silence for prayers of confession.*

REFLECTION ON OUR CONFESSION

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Hymn 4, *stanza 1*

Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ Redeemer of us all, We pray you hear us when we call. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (From John 1: 14, 16)

One: The Word became flesh and lived among us and we have seen his glory... full of grace and truth... From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Thus in Jesus Christ, I proclaim that we are forgiven, renewed, and restored.

*stand, as able*

RESPONSE TO OUR FORGIVENESS

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM

Hymn 4, *stanza 4*

To God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit Three in One,  
Praise, honor, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

*all are seated*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of Love, we ask that your Word be a lamp unto our feet to guide us on your paths. In the name of your Son, that Word made flesh, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *Isaiah 32: 1-8*

Liturgist

## ANTHEM

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

arr. Larry Sue

The First & Franklin Handbell Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *Luke 1: 46b-55*

Rev. Christian Iosso

SERMON *Holy Disruption*

Rev. Christian Iosso

*stand, as able*

## HYMN OF RESPONSE 48

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

*At this time, you may bring any prayer request cards to the front of the sanctuary, or signal an usher to assist you.*

*all are seated*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & INTERCESSIONS

### PURPLE RIBBON LIST (December 1-7, 2022)

Jaymyra Burrell, 19     *We hang a purple ribbon on the Park Avenue side of our building to remind us to pray  
Kierra Cox, 28         for the victims, survivors, and perpetrators of these acts of violence in Baltimore City. If  
Ralph Johnson, 36     you would like to join in putting up a ribbon after worship, please signal an usher.*

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

All:     **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.**

## OFFERTORY

*If you wish to give online via our website, use [this link](#) or scan the QR code.  
If you would like to give your offering by mail, please send it to the church office.  
Offerings are processed weekly.*



AT THE OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten

setting by Richard W. Gieseke

The First & Franklin Handbell Choir

*stand, as able*

DOXOLOGY 591

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Written by Phil Adams

One: God of joy and mercy, throughout human history your light and grace appear at times when things seem the darkest. Unstop our ears and open our eyes to the ways in which we can use these offerings, our hearts, and our hands to reveal the Messiah who lives among us. Send your light to give us eyes that see the face of a brother or sister in every person we encounter, and help us to accept your grace which releases us from our self-made prisons. Accept these offerings as our continuing commitment be your humble servants in the work for peace and justice in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*remain standing for*

HYMN OF SENDING 14

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fantasia and Toccata in G minor

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

*It is the custom of this congregation to remain in the sanctuary for the postlude. Those wishing to exit may do so.  
Grace and joy to all who have joined us in worship! Please join us for fellowship in Reid Chapel.*

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LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Rev. Chris Iosso, *Interim Minister*  
Jason Kissel, *Minister of Music & Arts/Organist*  
Dave Pierson, *usher*  
Lorren Hayman, *liturgist*

THE FIRST & FRANKLIN  
HANDBELL CHOIR

Jim Harvey  
Becca Hollaway  
Mike Johnson  
Alex Mendelsohn, *director*  
Marianne Shick

The set of readings for the lighting of the Advent candles is based on texts from *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*, which First & Franklin is using as its Advent devotional. We thank Kris Stinson for crafting this part of today's liturgy. Today's reading includes the following scripture: Matthew 24:36-44; Isaiah 2:1-5; Mark 1-2, Mark 5:34; Mark 8, 9:7, 10:21.