



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We acknowledge
our weariness*

ADVENT 2023



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 3, 2023 10:30 am



In Preparation for Worship

“A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn; Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born.” – from the hymn “O Holy Night”

Prelude

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Linda & Jared Elliot

Opening Hymn* 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Prayer of Confession*

Leader: O God of Grace and Love,

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

People: **Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard. Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

Leader: For weary minds that feel overwhelmed and saturated with news, we pray:

People: **Forgive us for creating so many distractions. Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

Leader: For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

People: **Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves. Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy and grief can coexist.**

Leader: For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

People: **Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth. Remind us that your good news knows no bounds.**

Hear now the silent prayers of our hearts... (a moment of silence is kept for personal prayers)

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: **Hear our prayers. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Praise*

Chancel Choir: A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. His power and glory evermore proclaim.

All: A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. His power and glory evermore proclaim. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Gil Hearn

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 64:1,3,8

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:5-17

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

All children are invited to come forward for Tell Us Our Story. Afterwards, parents will walk their children via the covered sidewalk to Room 120 for "Frolic" (ages PreK and K) or Room 117 for childcare (birth through 3's.) Since this is Family Worship Sunday all elementary children will remain in worship with their families so that they may participate in Communion. Worship books and other faith formation resources are available on the worship carts and ledges in the narthex. At the conclusion of worship, any family seeking to learn more about children and communion may come to the front of the sanctuary to learn more about communion from a pastor and receive resources to continue the conversation at home.

Sermon

Waiting Expectantly

David Lower

Affirmation of Faith

from A Sanctified Art

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.**

**We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,
not just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead, who is not done dreaming for the world—
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change, movements and Spirit.
How does a weary world rejoice?**

We acknowledge our weariness. And so we return to this space.

**We bring our joy and our weariness like two sides of the same coin,
and we trust that God is already at work.**

**Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers. Thanks be to God for a love like that.
Amen.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

O Come, Emmanuel
Peter Paul Olejar

Moment for Thornwell

Diane and Justin Wilkes

The Offering

I waited for the Lord
Felix Mendelssohn

Morgan Potts & Lindsey Sanders

All are invited to participate in support of God's work at Saint Luke's, in one of three ways:

- 1) Giving envelopes, available in each pew, may be placed inside the Friendship Pads or in the offering plate as they are passed.*
- 2) Give online via slpres.org/giving,*
- 3) Send a text message to 73256, starting with the keyword GIVETOSLPRES followed by the amount.*

Closing Hymn* 93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Benediction*

Postlude*

Processional on TRURO
arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

Please join us in the church lobby for fellowship and conversation!

For the latest Saint Luke's news and information, go to slpres.org.

If you would like to share prayer concerns, or know someone who would (with their permission), you may submit prayer requests for inclusion in the Prayer Guide by sending them to prayerrequest@slpres.org.

Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net (A-719333).

Many of today's worship elements are written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org