

Lord's Day Worship
Second Sunday in Advent ~ Peace
December 8, 2024
10:30 AM

Prelude: *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*.....Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome.....Rev. Elizabeth Johnson

Introit: *Holy, Holy, Holy* No. 562

Sanctuary Choir

*Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.*

***Call to Worship**.....Rev. Dr. Will Robinson

Leader: In the darkness, we see light.
All: In the wilderness, we hear a voice.
Leader: Open our eyes to Your glory,
All: that we may see our sins and repent.
Leader: Prepare Your way in us,
All: that we may worship and serve You. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*..... No. 87

Advent Candle Lighting: Peace Dru, Samantha, Wesley and Walker Brown
Response: *A Candle is Burning*..... Sandra Dean/James Murray

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease;
For Jesus is coming to show us the way,
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

***Passing the Peace**

Offering

Offertory: *A Carol for Advent*..... Mary E. Caldwell
Chalmers Gorman, baritone

***Response:** *In the Bleak Midwinter*..... No. 144

**What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him: I give Him my heart.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

A Chamber Cantata for Christmas by Joseph M. Martin
Directed by Chad Martin, Director of Music and Organist
Narrators: Margaret Conn and Blaine Lotz

Overture of Joy
Chamber Orchestra

A Weary World Rejoices

Sanctuary Choir

*Celebrate! Celebrate! Come lift your voices with glorious, jubilant song. Celebrate! Celebrate! Come with rejoicing as heaven is singing along. Arise and shine, your Light has come. Rise and see what the Lord has done. God is sending His promised Son.
A weary world rejoices! A weary world rejoices!*

*Celebrate! Celebrate! This is the season, a reason for jubilant praise. Celebrate! Celebrate! Shout from the mountains. Earth's fountains are flowing with grace. Arise and shine, your Light has come. Rise and see what the Lord has done. God is sending His promised Son.
A weary world rejoices! A weary world rejoices!*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Ye people, prepare the path with praise. Good people, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Restore your alleluias, your grateful anthems raise. Joy to the world. Rejoice, rejoice, ye people, this is the dawn of grace! Good people, now rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Joy to the world! Sing Alleluia! Joy to the world!

*Celebrate! Celebrate! Gather together, the music is calling today. Celebrate! Celebrate! Hear how the steeples are bringing God's people to praise. Arise and shine, your Light has come. Rise and see what the Lord has done. God is sending His promised Son.
A weary world rejoices! A weary world rejoices!*

The Word of God

Jeremiah 30:17-19

The Prayers of the People

Redeem, Restore, Renew

Sanctuary Choir; Anne Millhaem, soprano

Frozen dreams are falling from a broken sky. Winter winds are moaning in the night.

People lost in shadows reach to touch the starshine. Come, O come, Emmanuel.

We long to know Your healing light.

Many fires have burnt on altars made of hope. Swirling prayers for peace have touched the sky.

Failing faith and shattered souls yearn and plead to be made whole.

When will You hear our cry?

Come, O come, Emmanuel. We lift our wounded songs to You. Come, O come, Emmanuel. Lord, come and melt our hearts of stone. Remind us we are not alone.

Lord, come and make in us Your home. Redeem, restore, renew.

Many are the tears that we have spilled in woe. Many were the years of silent pain.

See our golden harps upon the weeping willows. Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lord, strum our spirits once again.

Soon the season of this silence will surrender. Soon the rhyme and reason will be clear.

Grace and glory will come down to a manger, cross and crown. The promise will appear.

Come, O come, Emmanuel. We lift our wounded songs to You. Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Lord, come and melt our hearts of stone. Remind us we are not alone.

Lord, come and make in us Your home. Redeem, restore, renew.

The Word of God

Isaiah 9:2-6

The Prayers of the People

Arise! Rejoice!

Sanctuary Choir

Arise! Sing unto the Lord! Rejoice with the sound of the trumpet! Rejoice! Sing unto the Lord! Prepare the way, declare the day of jubilee! Rejoice, the King is coming! Adorn your life with

praise! Hosanna! Hosanna! Lift high your voice and sing! Hosanna! Hosanna!

Hosanna to the King of kings!

Arise! Sing unto the Lord! Break forth into glorious singing! Arise! Arise! Sing unto the Lord! Behold, a Light is beaming bright to show the way! Who is the King of glory, this bright and Morning Star? Hosanna! Hosanna, the promised Prince of Peace! Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the

King of kings!

Every valley shall be lifted, every mountain be made low. Every rough and broken place will heal and be made whole.

*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna evermore!
Every nation, all creation, sing to the Lord!
Arise! Sing unto the Lord! Rejoice with the sound of the trumpet! Rejoice! Sing unto the Lord! Prepare the way, declare the day of jubilee!
Rejoice, the King is coming! Adorn your life with praise! Hosanna! Hosanna! Lift high your voice and sing! Hosanna! Hosanna!
Hosanna to the King of kings!*

The Word of God

Luke 1:26-31

The Prayers of the People

Come, Graceful Rose

Bob Manne, tenor; Brian Fatzinger, tenor
Sanctuary Choir

*Come, graceful Rose, we wait for You. Awake our song, our joy renew.
Come to our world, Your hope release, and cover all with perfect peace.*

*O graceful Rose, we reach in faith to touch Your beauty, know Your way.
How flawless is Your fair designs, a portrait of God's love divine.*

*Come, graceful Rose, adorn the night. We wait in shadows for Your light.
The garden longs to be restored. The earth is yearning for her Lord.*

*O graceful Rose, O perfect bloom, we pray Your coming will be soon.
Until that day, we will prepare and clear our hearts to plant You there.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel is coming. Rejoice! Rejoice!
Come, save us Lord, we pray. Come, save us Lord, we pray.*

*Come, graceful Rose, with beauty rare, bloom in our night with fragrance fair.
For wounded lives, Your heart is torn. For every tear, You bear the thorn.*

*O graceful Rose, Your garden prays, come heal our fallen world today.
Let mercy fall. Let healing start. Come graceful Rose, from heaven's heart.*

The Word of God

Luke 2:4-7

The Prayers of the People

Away in a Manger

Pat Smith, alto
Sanctuary Choir

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus. Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
Lullay. Lullay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

The Word of God

Luke 2:8-14

The Prayers of the People

Sing, O Heavens

Sanctuary Choir

*Sing, O heavens, and be joyful. Let the earth break forth in song.
Sing, O heavens, and be joyful. Let all creation sing unto God.*

*Sing, O heavens, and be joyful. Let the earth break forth in song.
Sing, O heavens and be joyful. Let all creation sing unto God.
All you mountains sing and rejoice. All you rivers, clap your hands
for God has brought His comfort and compassion to His people.*

Come and rejoice with a jubilant voice to the Lord. Praise the Lord!

*Sing, O heavens, and be joyful. Let the earth break forth in song.
Sing, O heavens, and be joyful. Let all creation sing unto God.*

*Sing, O heavens! Glory to God! Sing, O shepherds! Glory to God!
Let all heaven and earth sing to God! Sing the glory of God!*

The Word of God

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-10

The Prayers of the People

Beautiful Star

Jack Gatlin, baritone
Sanctuary Choir

*Beautiful star, silver and bright. Wonder of heaven, Love's perfect Light. O star of glory, diamond of peace, you onward lead us through the night.
Beautiful star, beautiful star.*

*Beautiful star, beacon of grace, lend us your glory, restore our faith. Beyond our dreaming, a dazzling dawn and joyful song awake the day.
Beautiful star, beautiful star.*

*Long earth has wandered in darkness and sorrow, searching the sky for a brighter tomorrow.
Then heaven gave us a star we could follow, a sign of hope for all time. And there was light.*

*Horizons rich with gold rejoice in colors bold! A Morning Star is rising.
A Morning Star is rising in the sky.*

*Beautiful star shine evermore, dazzling your promise, life evermore!
With jubilation, let all creation, every nation, praise the Lord! Beautiful star, beautiful star.*

The Word of God

John 1:1-5

John 3:16

Cantique de Noel

Matthew Walley, baritone; Beth Curtis, soprano
Sanctuary Choir

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining. It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.*

*A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, we see the seekers from far away lands.*

The King of kings is lying in a manger. In all our trials born to be our friend. Fall on your knees!

O bear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

***Hymn:** *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* No. 100

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude:** *People, Look East!* Kristina Langlois

† † †

About *A Weary World Rejoices*

A Weary World Rejoices is a chamber cantata for Christmas written by Joseph Martin in 2022. Joseph Martin is a graduate of Furman University in Greenville, SC, earning a degree in piano performance. He also earned a Master's degree in piano performance from Austin University. Having published numerous anthems, cantatas and other musical works, Martin was also commissioned to compose the anthem dedicated to Dr. Russell Floyd in honor of his twenty-five years of service as Director of Music Ministries here at First Presbyterian Church. *A Weary World Rejoices* is a work for such a time as this because it brings hope and light to communities of faith like our own. Several of the Sanctuary Choir members participated in the performance of this work at Carnegie Hall on December 2, 2024. Decorated with beloved carols and engaging original anthems, this chamber cantata is brimming with the joy of Christmas. Enjoy!

† † †

Copyright Information: *How Brightly Shines the Mornig Star:* © 1952 Wilhelmina Hansen, Coperhagen, CCLI 1638406; *Holy, Holy, Holy:* music adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., CCLI 1638406; *Comfort, Comfort Now My People:* Public Domain; *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus:* Public Domain; *A Weary World Rejoices:* © 2022 Hal Leonard, LLC, CCLI 1638406; *A Carol for Advent:* © MCMLXVII, triune Music Inc., CCLI 1638406; *In the Bleak Midwinter:* Public Domain; *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout:* text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., music arr. © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., CCLI 1638406; *People, Look East!:* © Birnamwood, St. Louis, MO, CCLI 1638406; livestream: CCLI 2145514