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# ADVENT

— Hope. Peace. Love. Joy. —

**SEQUOYAH HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**SERVICE OF THE LORD'S DAY | December 6, 2020**  
**11:00 A.M.**

INTROIT *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* FRENCH CAROL

WELCOME Dr. Jay Howell

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

John and Audra Kapsaroff

\*HYMN *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry* WINCHESTER NEW

*(For those worshipping in person, please use "indoor voices"  
while wearing your mask for everyone's safety.)*

**On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry, Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and harken, for he brings, Glad tidings of the King of kings!**

**Then cleansed be every life from sin; Make straight the way for God  
within, And let us all our hearts prepare, For Christ to come and  
enter there.**

**We hail You as our Savior, Lord, Our refuge, and our great reward; O  
let Your face upon us shine, And fill the world with love divine.**

**All praise to You, eternal Son, Whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, And Holy Spirit, evermore.**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison) Rev. Rachel Hamburger

**Wonderful Counselor, we acknowledge that we are those people  
who once walked in darkness, but in your mercy, you rescued us  
and led us into the light. Even still, we sin in thought, word, and  
deed. We have not loved you with all our heart nor loved our  
neighbor as ourselves. Help us to recognize the errors in our  
thinking and the many ways we fail you. Mighty God, restore us to a  
right relationship with you and lead us to the rock that is higher  
than us. In the name that is above all names, Jesus, we pray.**

\*SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*ACT OF PRAISE (Congregation sings.)

VENI EMMANUEL

**O Come, Thou Day-spring, 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!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

### THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT Mark 8:34—9:1

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO *Mary, Did You Know?* by Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene  
Whitney Rorabaugh, soprano

OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON *Baby Names: Mighty God* Dr. Jay Howell

HYMN (seated) *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* LEMMEL

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus.  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
in the light of His glory and grace.**

### RESPONDING

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving

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

Distribution of Elements (*Please hold the Bread and the Cup, that we might partake of them together as a family of faith.*)

Silent Meditation and Prayer

Prayer of Commitment: **We thank you, O God, that through Word and Sacrament you have given us your Son, who is the true bread from heaven and food of eternal life. So strengthen us in your service that our daily living may show our thanks, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

\*HYMN                      *All of You Who Walked in Darkness*                      MENDELSSOHN

**All of you who walked in darkness who have known the fear of night — Now rejoice and sing with gladness; come and see the wondrous light! God has turned your tears to songs, lifting burdens, righting wrongs. God sent us a tiny boy bringing hope and peace and joy. In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.**

**Still Christ comes to save God's people, still he comes to those oppressed. To the folks who toil and struggle, God has sent the very best. To the young and to the old, to the homeless, tired and cold, To the lost, to those who mourn, to the world, a child is born. In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.**

**In this time of celebration, may we show what life can be, As we care for God's creation, as we serve the Prince of Peace. Seeking justice everywhere, lifting burdens others bear, May we gladly serve and pray — knowing why we live this way: In one little baby's birth, God knelt down to love the earth.**

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE                      *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*                      by Andrew Skoog

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

## CALENDAR

### Sunday

- 8:15 A.M. - Nursery for 8:30 Service (Room 204)
  - Toddler Childcare for 8:30 Service (Room 209)
- 8:30 A.M. - In-Person Worship (Barron Hall)
- 9:45 A.M. - Online Sunday School: Children, Youth, and Adult Classes
- 10:30 A.M. - Nursery for 11:00 Service (Room 204)
  - Toddler Childcare for 11:00 Service (Room 209)
- 11:00 A.M. - In-Person (Sanctuary) and Livestream Worship

### Monday

- 2:00 P.M. - Yoga (The Loft)

### **Wednesday**

6:00 P.M. - Women's 45+ Bible Study (Zoom)

6:30 P.M. - Women's Casual Bible Study (off site)

### **Thursday**

8:00 A.M. - Men's Bible Study (Zoom)

2:00 P.M. - Yoga (The Loft)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP** is available at 8:30 A.M. in Barron Hall and at 11:00 A.M. in the Sanctuary. Please refer to the Latest Information section of our website for more information and to register.

**IF YOU ARE WORSHIPING** with us as a visitor, welcome! For more information about any of our ministries, contact Rev. Mark Lampley.

**CONSIDERING JOINING SEQUOYAH CHURCH?** You are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting for Newcomers on Sunday, December 13, at 9:30 A.M. Email Megan.Landers55@gmail.com or Mark Lampley at MLampley@SequoyahChurch.org. We have several joining that day and would be happy to welcome others!

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:** 2:00 P.M.—Live Nativity Service on the front lawn; 5:00 and 9:00 P.M.—Communion and Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary. The 5:00 Service will be available via Livestream. Registration available December 13 through 23.

### **WORSHIP**

**IN PREPARATION FOR COMMUNION** in your home, obtain some simple elements of bread or crackers and juice or water to partake when invited by pastors.

**TODAY'S PRAYER OF CONFESSION** was written by Pam Fritts.

**TO DONATE A POINSETTIA/CHRISTMAS FLOWERS** for the church in honor or in memory of a loved one, please call 522-9804 by Monday, December 7. The cost is \$25 each (checks made payable to SHPC, marked "Poinsettias").

**SCHOLARSHIP SINGERS ASSISTING IN WORSHIP:** Sarah-Clementine Mire and Whitney Rorabaugh, sopranos; Aubrey Odle, mezzo-soprano; Adriel Baralt, tenor; Michael Roemer and Jack Rosamond, basses.

### **STEWARDSHIP**

**THANKS TO EVERYONE** who has already joined in our pledge campaign for 2021. Currently we have received 185 pledges totaling \$1,465,466! If you're ready to submit your pledge, you can do so online, by mail, or by returning it to the church office. God is good!

## **MISSIONS AND OUTREACH: Christmas Projects**

Detailed information about each of the following projects is available at [sequoyahchurch.org/local-missions](http://sequoyahchurch.org/local-missions):

Roses Creek: To adopt a family or help deliver gifts, email [jennifer6178@hotmail.com](mailto:jennifer6178@hotmail.com);

Pond Gap: To purchase gifts for a deserving student, email [tootieorchid@comcast.net](mailto:tootieorchid@comcast.net);

Thrive Parkridge: Donate to the Thrive Holiday Store;

For FISH Christmas Cards, email [rguyton@sequoyahchurch.org](mailto:rguyton@sequoyahchurch.org).

## **CONGREGATIONAL CARE**

**SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER:** During December, SHPC Ministries will be spreading cheer to those who need to remain safely at home. If you know of someone who would be blessed by a Christmas treat, let us bring some joy around the birth of our Savior! Call 522-9804 or email [rhamburger@sequoyahchurch.org](mailto:rhamburger@sequoyahchurch.org).

**A NEW EMPLOYMENT MINISTRY:** If you need job information or have a job to offer, our deacons have started a new ministry of prayer and support based on a network of ideas and leads. Email your request or opportunity to [deacons@sequoyahchurch.org](mailto:deacons@sequoyahchurch.org). One Deacon will read your email confidentially and respond.

**THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE DIFFICULT** for those who have lost a loved one this year, or are experiencing some other kind of hardship. Our Stephen Ministry is a confidential, one-on-one relationship of rich encouragement and support. Contact Eleanor Barron at 865-387-3861 or Pastor Rachel at [rhamburger@sequoyahchurch.org](mailto:rhamburger@sequoyahchurch.org).

## **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**WOMEN OF SHPC** are invited to watch a special video every Wednesday during Advent on our church website (under Latest Information) and on social media. Don't miss hearing from Eleanor Barron, Karen Lampley, Frances Howell, and Rachel Hamburger as we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord!

**OUR SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS** go out to Joe Elmore in the death of his son, and Nancy Barger in the death of her brother, Thornton Elmore, on November 27. Jesus said, "Because I live, you too shall live." John 14:19

## **CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

**ON-SITE SUNDAY CHILDCARE:** 8:15 A.M. Nursery (Room 204), Toddler (Room 209), 10:30 A.M. Nursery (Room 204), Toddler (Room 209), Extended Session (Room 220 – limit of 10 children). Registration is required for childcare.

**VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** for children, youth, and adults are offered each Sunday. Join in for fellowship, prayer, and learning. Information available on the calendar and on our website's Connect and Grow page.

**CURRENT ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL TOPICS INCLUDE** Luke's Gospel (Bible Discovery), the Incarnation (Adult Fellowship), faith of our forefathers (Christian Growth), and Prayer (Foundations). Consider joining a Sunday morning Zoom class to learn more about the Bible, spiritual disciples, and faith by following the link in the Sunday morning congregational email.

**WANT TO LEARN MORE** about the Messiah? Interested in applying the Lord's Prayer? A new Bible study on Luke begins January 6, running Wednesdays 6-7pm led by clergy via zoom. Guidebook provided with goal of Scripture application. If interested, contact Mark at [MLample@sequoyahchurch.org](mailto:MLample@sequoyahchurch.org)

**LET US CONTINUE TO BE GENEROUS** as we are called and able in our financial commitments to God, as our church is resolved to maintain our commitments to our staff and mission partners as much as we are able during this crisis.

**CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE, INSTAGRAM, WEBSITE, AND WEEKLY EMAIL** for the most up-to-date information.



*A Stephen Ministry Congregation*

**SEQUOYAH HILLS**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SequoyahChurch.org**