

“Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.” <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

**Sermon** Rev. Sharon Carter

### Responding to the Word

#### Affirmation of Faith

*Apostles' Creed* p. 14

#### Offering Prayer, Special Music

**+Response** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
#41 (chorus)

***O come let us adore Him! O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!***

**Anthem** *First Song of Isaiah*  
STF 2030 (congregation join choir on refrain)

### Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right... who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts**  
2x

**The whole world is full of God's glory**  
3x

**Holy is the Lord!**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died, Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

**Breaking of the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer After Communion**

### Going Into the World

**+Hymn** *Come, Thou Long Expected*  
Jesus #2

**+Charge and Benediction**

**+Postlude**



*Community of Faith  
Presbyterian Church*



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church  
First Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018  
+Stand as you are able  
*Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold*

## Preparing Ourselves

### Prelude Welcome

### Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: We light this candle as the sign of the coming Christ.

**P: As the Lord has promised, in the days to come**

L: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom

**P: Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Let us pray: **Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you.**

**Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love;**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray together: Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the**

**kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**+Hymn** *The King of Glory Comes*  
STF 2091

### Call to Confession

A voice is crying out in the wilderness: Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Let us make our confessions before God and one another:

### Litany of Confession

For failing to love others as you have loved us: **God of grace, forgive us.**

For wasting your gifts and hoarding our goods: **God of grace, forgive us.**

For plundering the earth and abusing the planet: **God of grace, forgive us.**

For fearing those who are strange to us, and ignoring those in need...**God of grace, forgive us.**

For losing heart and abandoning hope...**God of grace, forgive us.**

For all the ways we turn from you...**God of grace, forgive us.**

### (Moment of silence.)

We offer our prayers in the name of the one who saves us, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

With joy let us draw water from the springs of salvation. Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name, for in Jesus Christ we are all forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ we are all forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Response** *Angels We Have Heard on High* #23 (chorus)

**Gloria! In Excelsis Deo! Gloria! In Excelsis Deo!**

### +Passing of the Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the peace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you.**

**Anthem** *Mary - Lawson*

### Hearing the Word

### Prayer for Illumination

**Holy God, our hope and strength, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading

**Philippians 4:4-9** <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer

and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

**Hymn** *Prepare the Way* #13

### Scripture Reading Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him,