

**Service of Worship**  
Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

10:30 AM

**FOR QUIET MEDITATION**

*Be reconciled: All you who enter here  
Parents and children; husbands and wives;  
Believers and those who cannot believe;  
Christians and their fellow Christians.*

(From the entrance to the Church of Reconciliation  
at the Community of Taize, France).

**GATHER AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Comfort, Comfort Ye My People* Burkhardt

**CHIMES**

**INTROIT** *Holy Ground*

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD GATHER**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *The Advent Candle – “Joy”*

Leader: Today, the third Sunday of Advent, we light the candles of Hope and Peace and remember our longing for God and be with us and to give us peace. (*first two candles lit*)

Leader: Today we light the candle of Joy for all God’s messengers, preparing the way for change and pointing to a new age to come. (*third candle lit*)

**All:** **God, as we wait for your promise, Give hope, give peace, give joy.**

Leader: A candle burns, the third marker of our Advent journey. As we continue on our journey to Christmas, may we travel joyfully.

**All:** **As we continue, God of journeys, guide our footsteps.**

Leader: This candle burns as the sign of God’s joy. God of joy, come to us again this Advent.

**All:** **May we be filled with your joy, burning as a light in our lives. Amen.**

\*HYMN # 128 (vss. 1-3)

*One Candle Is Lit*

\*PRAYER OF JOY (*let us pray together . . .*)

**Gracious God, as the third candle of Advent is lit, may we find our journey filled with joy. Help us to let our light of joy shine brightly that all may know of our faith, our peace, our hope, in Christ’s name. Amen.**

\*MUSICAL RESPONSE

*Glory to God*

Capo 3: (Bm) (Em) (A) (D)  
Dm Gm C F (chords continue)

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

\*May be sung as a canon.

(MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1979, Music ©1979, 1981 Les Presses de Taize (admin. GIA Publications Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License # A-725159.)

## LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE GOSPEL Luke 1:26-38, 46-56 NT page 56

\*HYMN # 164 (vss 1 - 2) *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

## GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND

### OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*The Angel Gabriel*

Lau

### \*ADVENT DOXOLGY

Tune: Veni Emmanuel

Em G C D7 G D G C G  
Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures

5 Am Bm7 Em Am Em B7 Em A7 D Em  
here. be - low. Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host. Praise

10 D Bm G C Am D7 G D Em Bm G  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -

15 C D7 Em D G C G Am Em Bm Em  
man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

\*Prayer of Dedication (*let us pray together . . .*)

We bring these gifts to you, O God. May they help to proclaim good news, bring justice and liberty and healing where they are needed, and comfort to those who mourn. And to these same ends we dedicate our lives. Amen.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

“Were You There?”

\*HYMN # 145 (vs. 1)

*Silent Night*

\*HYMN # 147 (vs. 1)

*Away in a Manger*

\*HYMN # 155 (vs. 1)

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

\*HYMN # 144 (vs. 1)

*Oh Little Town of Bethlehem*

\*HYMN # 143 (vs. 1)

*Joy to the World*

### PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

The Lord’s Prayer (*in unison*)

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.

### GOD'S PEOPLE DEPART TO SERVE

\*HYMN # 138 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*  
(vss. 1&3 only)

### \*BENEDICTION

God, of Advent, as we depart, may we be like Mary, praising your name and singing your song from the depths of our souls. May we spread your good news all around, so that everyone may hear. May we let people know how much we love you. And may we declare your good works. Amen.

### CHIMES

POSTLUDE *Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying* Manz

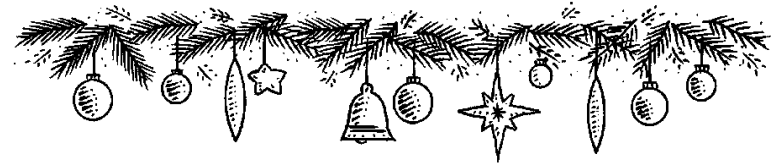
\*those who are able, please stand.

OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT  
CAST OF CHARACTERS

Interviewer One: Caoimhe Dudgeon  
Interviewer Two: Kyle Wright  
Star One: Grace Wright  
Star Two: Emma Dermott  
Star Three: Heather O'Hara  
Inn Keeper: Danny Ford  
Animals: Alex Bertram  
                  Luke Bertram  
                  Anelia Corbin  
                  Justin Dermott  
                  Deaglan Dudgeon  
Angel: Maddy Dermott  
Joseph: Jack Bertram  
Mary: Sophia Wright  
Child from Audience: Ruairi Dudgeon

**A SPECIAL THANKS**

A special thanks to Carol Costell Corbin, Tracy Bertram, and Abby Elkins for their faithful work with our children on Sunday mornings and in preparation for today's pageant. Thanks also to Kathy McKenna for ensuring the costumes were ready for use and to Jan Jeffers for bringing joy to our gatherings. Any finally, thanks to the wonderful families who have supported our children's program by bringing your children to Sunday School each week at 9:15 AM. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated.



The Homer Congregational Church wishes you a joyous Advent and Christmas and invites you to join us for our worship together.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP

On the fourth Sunday of Advent we light the Advent candle of love and participate in a special musical service led by our choir.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24**

5:30 DISH TO PASS DINNER

Please bring a dish to pass, whether that be holiday hors d'oeuvres, a special holiday soup, or Grandpa's favorite cookies, and join us for a simple meal.

7:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

The Service of Lessons and Carols follows an ancient custom of placing music between scripture readings. The service concludes with a candle lighting custom.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27**

10:30 AM – WORSHIP

Join us for a service of music and scripture that will also include musical gifts by members.

At each entrance to the sanctuary you will find an Advent/Christmas devotional that can assist you in your spiritual journey. The devotional is filled with readings and suggestions for all ages.

**Worship Service**  
**Participants**

***Ushers and Greeters***

Caoimhe Dudgeon,  
Heather Herzog, Elijah Smith,  
Grace Wright

***Worship Leader***

Vicki Johnson

***Nursery Volunteers***

Ingrid Fox,  
Abby Elkins

***Flowers***

***Coffee Hour***

Christian Education Ministry

***Attendance***

December 6 - 78

*Monday is the deadline for ordering **Poinsettias**. They will be placed in the Sanctuary on December 20 and can be taken home after the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve service.*

*The **Mitten Tree** donations of new hats, gloves and mittens, which will be donated for holiday gift baskets, will be delivered next week.*

**Life in the Parish**  
**Week of December 13**

**TODAY – December 13**

*Children's Christmas Pageant*

9:15 am – Sunday School classes,  
The Well

10:30 am – Worship service

11:45 am – All-Church Christmas  
Party

11:45 am – Transition Team meets

**MONDAY – December 14**

7:30 pm – Al-Anon meets in RFR

**TUESDAY – December 15**

2:00 pm – Bridge Group

6:30 pm – Trustees/Deacons  
meeting

**WEDNESDAY – December 16**

*Newsletter Deadline*

7:00 pm – Choir rehearsal

**THURSDAY – December 17**

Noon – Bible Study group

**SUNDAY – December 20**

*Choir Sunday*

9:15 am – Sunday School classes,  
The Well

10:30 am – Worship service

## NOTES AND NOTICES

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*Christian Education Ministry and the Youth Group cordially invite you to celebrate Christmas with our congregation immediately following today's service.*

**Survey Says!!!!** For the last five months the Transition Team has sought to lead a multi faceted congregational study. In September the congregation participated in a survey created by *US Congregational Life Survey*. You are invited to see and discuss the results **today** following the worship service. If you are unable to attend let one of the members of the Transition Team know and a time for you can be arranged. We want all to participate in this process.

The **Fellowship Hour Refreshment Host List** is being updated for next year. It will appear in the January 2016 Newsletter. If you would like to sign up to host, change when you host, or be removed from the list please contact Kathy McKenna (345-8175) by December 14<sup>th</sup>.

The “Christmas Wish List” gifts as part of the YWCA’s **Bridges for Kids** program were delivered this week. Thanks to all who participated, the response was filled with joy. This week we have the opportunity to participate in the **Angel Tree** gift-giving ministry in which the children of families that are receiving Christmas Boxes through the Homer Food Pantry can receive gifts. The children are anonymous, but pertinent information is available. If you would like to purchase a gift or provide funds for someone else to buy a gift see Karen Dudgeon.

**The Homer Congregational Church seeks a Child Care Coordinator.** This is a part-time position, approximately 3-4 hours per week with presence required on Sunday mornings and during other events as requested. Normal duties are performed in the church facility. To apply, send resume to Resumes@homercc.org. Job description is available on our web site at www.homercc.com. For more information contact Karen Dudgeon.