

# Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – December 12, 2021

## Third Sunday of Advent

Church in person at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Livestream on YouTube at 11:00 a.m.



### Opening Music

“He Came Down”

Wade Meyers (9:30)

Christian Women Fellowship (11:00)

### Welcome

*Please register your attendance with the QR code on the back of the bulletin, or with the online link, or on paper in the church Gathering Space. Need help? Ask any usher.*

### Call to Worship *[responsive]*

Come together, worship God, and dare to hope:

**The One who comes will defend the poor with justice  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.**

Come together, worship God, and dare to believe the promise:

**Christ will baptize us with the Holy Spirit,  
and with fire.**

Come together, worship God, and dare to respond to the call:

**In sorrow and joy, today and tomorrow,  
in life and in death, Christ is our hope.**

Let us worship God with eager hope.

### Opening Prayer

**Hymn** *[stand]*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” *verses 1 and 4*

Glory to God #121

**Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession** *[together]*

Shepherd of Israel, God of hosts,  
we have turned away from you,  
neglecting the welfare of your creation,  
ignoring the plight of your people,  
and living only for ourselves.  
Forgive our small-mindedness, we pray,  
and our selfish choices.  
Forgive our inattention to others,  
and our shallow love for you.  
We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon**

**We Listen to God's Word**

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**Children's Message**

Carolyn Hayes

*Children and youth leave for class. Children can be picked up after church in Room 30/31 or Room 32/33. Youth will be released from class to find you.*

**Sung Response**

*"Away in a Manger" verses 1 and 3*

Glory to God #115

**Scripture**

**Isaiah 65:17-25**

<sup>17</sup> For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
or come to mind.

<sup>18</sup> But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
and its people as a delight.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
or the cry of distress.

<sup>20</sup> No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

<sup>21</sup> They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They shall not build and another inhabit;  
they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.  
<sup>23</sup> They shall not labor in vain,  
or bear children for calamity;  
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
and their descendants as well.  
<sup>24</sup> Before they call I will answer,  
while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

#### **Mark 2:1–12**

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. <sup>2</sup>So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them. <sup>3</sup>Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup>And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. <sup>5</sup>When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.' <sup>6</sup>Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, <sup>7</sup>'Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?' <sup>8</sup>At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves; and he said to them, 'Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? <sup>9</sup>Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven", or to say, "Stand up and take your mat and walk"? <sup>10</sup>But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins'—he said to the paralytic— <sup>11</sup>'I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.' <sup>12</sup>And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this!'

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Jesus Has No Need for Hand Sanitizer**

Rev. Mary Austin

## We Respond to God's Grace

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**Hymn** "Lord, Make us More Holy" Glory To God #313

### Invitation to Generosity and Prayer of Thanksgiving

**Offertory** "Creator of the Stars of Night" Wade Meyers (9:30)  
"I Am Satisfied with Jesus" CWF (11:00)

### Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer [*together*]

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.

## We Depart for Service

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### Announcements

**Sending Song** [*stand*] "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" Glory to God #132

### Passing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### Closing Blessing

**Closing Music** "Fugue on the Magnificat Sixth Tone, No. 3" J. Pachelbel (9:30)  
"We Sing Praises to the Lord, for He Reigns" CWF (11:00)

### Participating in the service:

Ms. Carrie Larsen, Director of Youth and College Ministries, Worship Leader (9:30)

Mr. Michael Baxter, Worship Leader (11:00)

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship is adapted from the writing of Brian Wren.

The Prayer of Confession is from the Feasting on the Word Worship Companion.



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([gpchurch.org/guestbook](http://gpchurch.org/guestbook))