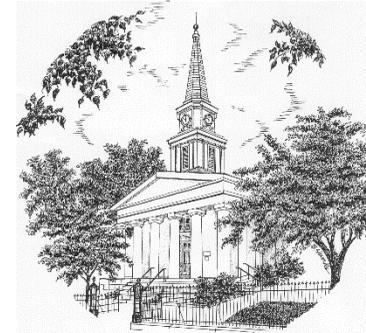


**Thank you** to Debbie Pollard for assisting with worship this morning. **Thank you** to our worship team - Maggie Irby (moderator), Jessica Willett (waiting room), Skip Hess (soundboard) and Buddy Bryan, Carol Bryan and Leslie Groome (usher team).

**Thank you** to the choir, to Ruth Floyd, soloist and handbells, and Mayumi Smitka, handbells. The choir's anthem features a lovely text by the American poet and choral singers, Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), which has been paired in hymnals with an old Irish melody from *Danta De*, an Irish hymnal (1928). William McCorkle arranged this song into an anthem in 1981.

The session met this morning to receive into membership Margaret McClintock by transfer of letter. Margaret is employed by W&L. The session also received Tammy & Randy Shomo by transfer of letter. Tammy is a retired teacher and Randy is a financial advisor for Wells Fargo. Please welcome all three into the LexPres family of faith.



Lexington Presbyterian Church  
120 South Main Street  
Lexington, VA 24450  
[www.lexpres.org](http://www.lexpres.org)

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
12 December 2021  
11:00AM

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### GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE                      *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*                      Spiritual, arr. D. Wagner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH              Celebrating Rev. Kelly-Ann Rayle

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE              The Michael & Gaye Johnson Family

***Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!"***

***God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, into our darkness come.***

\*OPENING HYMN 84    *Creator of the Stars of Night*

A TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***What shall we do, O God? We can never do enough to deserve your love. We confess that we are not always truthful. We have defaced the purity of your love for us. We have distorted your cries for justice in order to benefit ourselves. We have***

**given less than our best to others and to you. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

Silent Confession  
Assurance of Pardon

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

\*Hymn 104, v. 3

*O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

**You come, O Lord, with gladness, in mercy and goodwill,  
to bring an end to sadness and bid our fears be still.  
In patient expectation we live for that great day  
when your renewed creation your glory shall display.**

**World without end, without end, Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.  
World without end, without end. Amen.**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

### HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING     Isaiah 12:2-6

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING     Luke 3:7-18

SERMON     *Recognizing Opportunities*     Rev. Tom Groome

\*HYMN OF REFLECTION 163     *Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius  
Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the  
third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from  
thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in  
the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life  
everlasting. Amen.**

\*AFFIRMATION IN SONG - Hymn 582

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines*

PRAYER OF PEOPLE & 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.**

THE BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

Opening Words

Anthem     What Is the Crying at Jordan?     Irish melody, arr. McCorkle  
\*Hymn 606     *The Doxology*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*Prayer of Dedication

### SENDING

\*HYMN 149 [tune: Es flog eins klein Waldvögelein]     All Hail to God's Anointed

\*BLESSING IN WORD

\*RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE: Hymn 88, v. 7     *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**O Come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

POSTLUDE

*Fugue on the Magnificat, BWV 733*

Johann Sebastian Bach