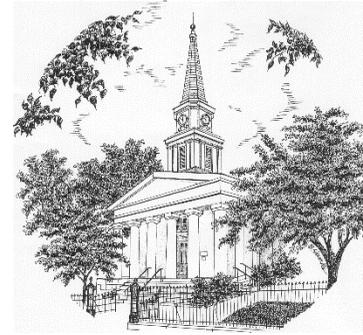


**Thank you** to Jon Tarris for assisting with worship this morning. **Thank you** to our worship team - Maggie Irby (moderator), Jessica Willett (waiting room), Skip Hess (soundboard), and Buddy Bryan, Carol Bryan and Leslie Groome (usher team).

**Thank you** to the choir for their musical leadership. The choir **anthem**, taken from the oratorio *St. Paul* (1836) by Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847). Mendelssohn takes the well-known advent hymn *Wachet auf (Sleepers, Wake!)* - see Hymn 349 - and lays the choral hymn, phrase by phrase, into a fanfare-like instrumental accompaniment. The organ **prelude** and **postlude** are based on this same hymn. The prelude is by the American organist/composer, Paul Manz (1919-2009) and the postlude is by the German organist, Alfred Greundmann (1857-1930).



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

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

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### GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

PRELUDE                                      *Wachet auf! (Sleepers, Wake!)*                                      Paul Manz

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH                                      *Christmas Joy Offering*                                      David Dax

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE                                      Jane & David Ellington

***God of hope, Prince of Peace, you speak peace into the world in the way of the Christ child. Help us embody your peace and live as peacemakers that we may be called children of God. God of hope, God of peace, into our darkness, come.***

\*OPENING HYMN 106                                      *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

A TIME OF CONFESSION

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

***O God, we have tried to cover up our sins, yet you know the disorder we have caused in our lives. You have witnessed our poor choices and our destructive habits. We have denied our baptism and ignored the responsibilities of discipleship. The good we do is often self-serving, while we avoid the full claims of gospel partnership. Hear our cries of repentance and turn our lives around, that we may know the wonder of your forgiveness. Amen.***

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

\*Hymn (tune: *Lauda Anima*)

*Jesus Came, Adored by Angels, v. 2*

***Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are bowed with care:***

***Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heartfelt prayer;***

***Alleluia, alleluia, comes to save us from despair.***

### HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING Malachi 3:1-4

A TIME WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE

NEW TESTAMENT READING Luke 3:1-6

SERMON *The Gifts of Christmas* Rev. Tom Groome

\*HYMN OF REFLECTION 96 *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

### 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 583 (sung twice) *Gloria, Gloria*

***Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!***

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 Word

Anthem *Sleepers, Wake* (from *St. Paul*) Felix Mendelssohn

\*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

\*CLOSING HYMN 105 *People, Look East*

\*BLESSING IN WORD

\*RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE: Hymn 88, v. 6 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

***O Come, thou Dayspring, 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.***

POSTLUDE *Wachet auf! (Sleepers, Wake!)* Alfred Grundmann