



“As the story of Mary shows us, to recognize the sovereign activity of God does not mean we need to minimize or deny our own participation in the divine work. To say that God is in control does not mean that God contributes 100 percent and we contribute nothing. On the contrary, the story of Mary shows us that God’s work includes us—not as worker bees who are brought on the scene to bring to fruition the druthers of the master, but as God’s creative partners in the ministry of reconciliation. The work associated with the coming of the Kingdom is all God’s, and also ours.”

Cynthia Rigby

A New Look at Mary

**The Worship of God
Fourth Sunday of Advent**

December 24, 2017

10:45am

WELCOME TO THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

We are grateful for your presence this morning. Third Church strives to be a faithful, open and inclusive congregation. We are a diverse people united by a common faith in Jesus Christ and by meaningful worship and service. We invite all who are seeking to live a life of Christian faith and discipleship to join us. If you are new to Third Church, the following information may be helpful.

Parking on Sunday Mornings: Street parking is possible on both sides of East Avenue. On Sundays, the Arnold Park parking lot is available for handicap parking only. Other parking is available in the Meigs Street parking lot and can also be found at:

- Jewish Community Federation (Sibley Place)
- American Association of University Women
- Rochester Area Community Foundation

In the event of a **Medical Emergency**, please notify an usher or staff member. An AED and first aid supplies are located in the hallway between the sanctuary and elevator.

Hearing Assistance: The Chapel and Sanctuary are equipped with induction loop systems. Use the "T-switch" of your hearing aid. If you have difficulty hearing during the worship service, please speak with an usher immediately.

An Elevator is located at the Parish House-Education Building junction to assist in accessibility.

Large Print Bulletins and Bibles are available from the ushers. Hymnals and Bibles are located in the pew racks.

Church School is available for children, preschool through sixth grade, during the 10:45am worship service.

Child Care is available all morning in the Education Building for infants and toddlers.

Pastoral Care: needs and prayer concerns may be communicated to Martha Langford.

More about Membership: If you are interested in joining Third Church, or just want to know more, contact Lynette Sparks (271-6537, ext. 106 or lsparks@thirdpresbyterian.org). The next Exploring Membership luncheon will take place Sunday, February 4 at 12:00pm.

Newsletter: The Messenger is published monthly. Copies are available in the Chapel and Sanctuary, in the literature racks outside Johnston Hall and the Arnold Park entrance, and on the church website. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, contact Cindy Mark in the Church Office (ext. 100 or cmark@thirdpresbyterian.org).

A WORD ABOUT THIS CHURCH

THIRD CHURCH participates in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Commitment to Peacemaking. Our intention is to pursue avenues of peace and justice for ourselves, our families and communities, for all people in the world in which we live. We seek to be agents of reconciliation.

THIRD CHURCH has joined with other Presbyterian congregations in declaring ourselves to be a "More Light" church. We are committed to the full participation of all persons in our church community without regard for sexual orientation, personal background or human condition.



www.thirdpresbyterian.org



@ThirdChurchROC



"Third Presbyterian Church"

THIRD CHURCH STAFF

OFFICE: 271-6513; VOICEMAIL: 271-6537

John Wilkinson, Pastor.....	ext 105
Martha C. Langford, Associate Pastor for Congregational Care	ext 108
Lynette K. Sparks, Associate Pastor for Outreach and Evangelism.....	ext 106
Ernest F. Krug, Parish Associate	
Peter A. DuBois, Director of Music/Organist.....	ext 109
Mary Ann Rutkowski, Associate Director of Music	ext 101
Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch, Coordinator of Children's Ministries and Congregational Life	ext 118
Jane S. Carden, Youth Ministry Coordinator	ext 107
Caroline J. Robinson, Assistant Organist	
Roderic P. Frohman, Pastor Emeritus	

Preparation for Worship

We come to worship from a busy and noisy world. As we prepare to offer ourselves in praise and adoration of God, it is important that we step back from our preoccupations and focus our thoughts on God. We ask that you please silence all electronic devices. As the music begins, please take time to become more aware of the continuing presence of God.

**Please stand as you are able, in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE "Toccata in F," BuxWV 156 Dietrich Buxtehude

INTROIT "Come to Us, Emmanuel" Carol McClure
Junior Choir

Come to us, Emmanuel, Christ whose love we now await,
Whose birth the prophets did foretell,
Come to us we pray, Come to us we pray.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT WREATH The Rich family

LEADER: As we light the fourth Advent candle,
we remember Mary's words:

PEOPLE: **"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..."**

LEADER: God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

PEOPLE: **God has filled the hungry with good things,
and has remembered mercy's promise."**

LEADER: We thank God for the gift of Love.

PEOPLE: **Let us walk in the light of the Lord.**

RESPONSE "Wait for the Lord"

(sing three times)



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.



Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

PRAYER of CONFESSION

God of eternity, when the voice of the prophet was silent and the faith of your people low; when darkness had obscured light and indifference displaced zeal: you saw that the time was right, and prepared to send your Son. Give us hope. Set us free from fear and faithlessness that we may be ready to welcome him who comes as Savior and Lord. Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - - - cy up - on us.

Christ, have mer - - - cy up - on us.

Lord, have mer - - - cy up - on us.

Peter DuBois, 2004

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: Friends, believe the good news.

PEOPLE: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*RESPONSE

organ intro

Glo-ry be to God: Cre - a - tor, Christ, and

Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now, and ev-er

shall be: World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

Peter DuBois, 2007

ANTHEM

“Mary Had a Baby”

Spiritual

arr. Peter DuBois

The Covenant Singers

Audrey Vinton, Hannah Rich,

Jonathan Lutzer, Erin Colaluca, *soloists*

Mary had a baby, Sweet Lamb. Where was he born? Born in a manger,
Mary had a baby, Sweet Lamb. What did they call him? Called him King
Jesus, Everlasting Father, Mighty Prince of Peace! Mary had a baby, Sweet
Lamb!

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Following the children’s message, children are invited to proceed to the education building for Sunday School. The nursery on the middle level of the education building is available for children age 3 and younger. The Preschool/Kindergarten class will be meeting with the first and second grades in CE 202, the third grade class will meet with the fourth and fifth grades in room CE 206 and the sixth grade will meet as usual in CE LL04.

DISMISSAL of CHILDREN

(sung twice: once in unison, once as a canon, beginning with the pulpit side)

TALLIS' CANON

Go with us, Lord, and guide the way Through
this and ev - ery com - ing day, That in Your Spir - it
strong and true Our lives may be our gift to You.

text: Mary Jackson Cathey, 1986
music: Thomas Tallis, adapt. Parker's *Whole Psalter*, c.1561

WORDS of WELCOME

We ask that you sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to the person next to you in the pew. Please greet those worshipping with you at the close of the service.

EPISTLE LESSON — Romans 16:25-27

Pew Bible, NT page 165

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Glory to God"

G. F. Handel

(from *Messiah*)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good-will towards men.

- Luke 2:14

GOSPEL LESSON — Luke 1:26-28

Pew Bible, NT page 56

LEADER: The Word of the Lord.

PEOPLE: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"The Stewardship of Holiness"

John Wilkinson

"The Angel Gabriel"

Basque Carol

Caroline Nielson, *alto*

Hymn 99 "My Soul Gives to My God"

MORNING SONG

(Stanzas 2, 3, and 4)

Hymn 100 "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

(Stanzas 3 and 4)

STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN

*AFFIRMATION of FAITH *from* "A Statement of Christian Faith," Church of Scotland, 1992

We proclaim Jesus Christ, God the Son: Born of Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became one of us, sharing our life and our death. He made known God's compassion and mercy, giving hope and declaring forgiveness of sin, offering healing and wholeness to all. By his death on the cross and by his resurrection he has triumphed over evil. Jesus is Lord of life and of all creation. Amen.

THE PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

and THE 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.

PRESENTATION of OFFERINGS

ANTHEM

"O Nata Lux"

Morten Lauridsen

(from *Lux Aeterna*)

O nata lux de lumine, Jesu
redemptor saeculi, dignare
clemens supplicum laudes preces
que sumere. Qui carne quondam
contegi dignatus ve pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici, tui
beati corporis.

*O born light of light, Jesus, redeemer
of the world, mercifully deem worthy
and accept the praises and prayers of
your supplicants. Thou who once
deigned to be clothed in flesh for the
sake of the lost ones, grant us to be
made members of your holy body.*

*RESPONSE



Faith - ful Lord of all things liv-ing, by whose boun-ty all are blest;
bread to hun gry bo-dies giv-ing, jus-tice to the long-op-pressed.
For the strength of our sal - va-tion, light and life and length of days,
praise the God of all cre-a-tion, set your souls to sing God's praise!

Text: from the hymn "Praise the God of Our Salvation" by Timothy Dudley-Smith
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8.7.8.7 D
Tune: MEIGS ST.
Music: © 2004 Peter DuBois

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

LEADER: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

LEADER: Lift up your hearts.

PEOPLE: **We lift them to the Lord.**

LEADER: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

PEOPLE: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

ALL: **God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when
Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our
hearts for his coming again; keep us steadfast in hope and
faithful in service, that we may receive the coming of his
kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ the ruler of all. Amen.**

*HYMN 347 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

PICARDY

*CHARGE and BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE

*GREETING

POSTLUDE "Noël Suisse" Louis-Claude Daquin

The chancel flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Shirley Mitchell Moore, beloved wife of James Moore and mother of Jennifer Moore Stahlkrantz, and James, David and Eliza Moore.

The memorial prayer candle is lit with hopes and prayers for Christmas peace in our hearts and in the world.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE

John Wilkinson..... Preacher
Martha C. Langford, Lynette K. Sparks Liturgists
Peter A. DuBois..... Director of Music/Organist
Mary Ann Rutkowski Associate Director of Music
Caroline J. Robinson Assistant Organist
Pam Apt, Carol Roth,
Miss Rickey Snowden, Tim Stout, Dot Wallace Greeters
Sue Danielson, Dianna Daunton, Miriam Gale, Tom Gillett,
Ann McMican, Gayle Phillips, Janet Stewart, David Tennant Ushers



MINISTRY, SERVICE, AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Eve Schedule

4:30pm, Festival of the Nativity, Sanctuary

8:00pm, Candlelight Communion, Chapel

11:00pm, Lessons and Carols, Sanctuary

Stewardship Update



Thanks to all of you who have pledged thus far to support our 2018 effort. At the time of publication, we have received 293 pledges totaling \$759,639.

Included in that number are 19 new pledges. 155 of you who pledged for 2017 have yet to pledge for the coming year.

If you've yet to respond, you can:

- Place your pledge card in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Additional pledge cards are available in the pew racks in the Sanctuary and the pew pads in the Chapel.
- Mail a completed pledge card to the church office
- Send a confidential pledge to cfoster@thirdpresbyterian.org

2017 Christmas Joy Offering

With Christ at the center of this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering support past, present, and future leaders in two particular ways: providing critical financial assistance to eligible workers/families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to qualifying retired church workers and their families; and supporting the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. Thanks to your generosity, we can support those in need. We

will receive the Christmas Joy Offering through Sunday, December 31. Envelopes are available in the pew racks and pew pads.

2017 Lessons and Carols Broadcast TONIGHT

The Rochester Festival of Lessons and Carols, recorded by our Chancel Choir, clergy, liturgists, and congregation last January **will air tonight at 11:00pm.**

The one-hour program consists of the traditional readings that were selected by King's College, Cambridge, Dean Eric Milner White in 1918, and music by Herbert Howells, Franz Biebl, Roland Martin, John Tavener and Jonathan Dove.

The broadcast will also be shared with dozens of public radio stations across the country throughout the holidays. A listing of stations is now available on the Third Church website.

Stained Glass Returns

We are pleased to report that the stained glass window in the northeast corner of the sanctuary, "A Tree Planted by the Rivers of Water" (Willet Studios, 1961) is now back in place after a successful restoration! A combination of special gifts and funds from the Property Committee operating budget made this possible.

Thursday Voices

Thursday Voices will resume January 4.

Inter-Holiday Yoga Class

Wednesday, December 27, 10:30am
Johnston Hall

All are invited to join an inter-holiday yoga session. Our guest instructor will be Jen Grow. Cider and a light treat will be shared afterwards. A donation of \$10 per person is

appreciated. All levels - first timers included. Extra mats are available. Please RSVP to Ann McMican at mcmould@rochester.rr.com.

Holiday Youth Group Alumni Reunion

Wednesday, December 27, 7:00pm
Tom Wahl's, 2545 Monroe Ave.
Bring money for dinner or snacks or whatever. Ice cream is on us. Look for Bruce!

Third Church Ringers and Celebration Ringers Concert

Thursday, December 28, 6:30pm
Episcopal Church Home
505 Mount Hope Ave.
The Third Church Ringers and Celebration Ringers will present a concert of Advent and Christmas music at the Episcopal Church Home on Thursday, December 28. All are welcome to attend this free event in the Episcopal Home's beautiful chapel space.

New Year's Eve

Join us on Sunday, December 31 at our 10:45am worship service to continue our Christmas celebration with readings and music of the season. **Please note, there is no 8:30am service on December 31.**

Young Adult Trivia Night

Thursday, January 11, 6:00pm-8:00pm
Johnston Hall
Join Young Adults from all over the Presbytery as we host a trivia night. Young Adults (20s and 30s) are invited to join in for this evening of fun, friendly competition and fellowship. Dinner and snacks will be provided. RSVP to Becky D'Angelo-Veitch at rveitch@thirdpresbyterian.org no later than January 8. For this Presbytery-sponsored event, child care will be provided with advance RSVP to Katie Styr (katie@gatespres.org) by Jan. 1.

Christmas Baskets – You Can Still Help!

The Christmas Basket Committee appreciates all who have chosen to sponsor a food basket for a family in need as well as all who have donated money for the purchase of TOPS gift cards, mittens, hats, undies and tights. We are still in need of additional funds to cover the gift cards **and we will continue to receive those funds through the end of December.** Please mail or drop off your check or cash donation to Carol Foster at the church and make a note

that it is for The 2017 Christmas Basket Ministry Program.

Should you have questions feel free to contact Sheila Elliott at 750-0611, or email selliott@rotoliteelliott.com.

Boar's Head Needs You!

Many bakers are needed to provide cookies, breads, mince tarts and plum puddings for the festive receptions which will follow both performances of The Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on January 6 and 7. **Items may be prepared as you do your holiday baking, but need to be delivered to the church by Friday, January 5.** Easy recipes for mince tarts, plum puddings, and volunteer forms may be found in the literature racks outside the church office. Please let us know as soon as possible if you can provide baked goods, and also if you are available to help with the reception set-up.

YOU ARE INVITED TO HELP financially support our presentation of the biennial Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on January 6 and 7, as a Patron. The Festival is a wonderful tradition and a gift from our congregation to the larger community of Rochester as we conclude our celebration of Christmas with this great Epiphany event! To help in this way, send a check payable to Third Presbyterian Church with the notation "Boar's Head Patron" clearly marked—or place your check, so marked, in the offering plate.

Help spread the word about the upcoming Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival, January 6 and 7! Pre-printed invitation post-cards are available in the church office for you to pick up and send to your friends. All you need to do is add an address, and a stamp! There's room for a short personal message, too. They're available in packets of ten. Also available are small invitation cards which can be inserted in Christmas cards.

Please help yourself, and help us fill the church for the Festival!

New Ways to Donate Online

Donating to Third Church just got easier!

If you'd like to donate online, visit www.thirdpresbyterian.org, click on the "Give" tab on right under the banner at the top of the page, and select "Give Online."

From there you will find several ways to make a quick and convenient donation, whether it's recurring or one-time only.

Worship Recordings and Sermon Availability

Did you know that Sunday sermons and anthems can be listened to again via the church website?

Visit www.thirdpresbyterian.org, click on "Worship," then select "Sermons and Order of Worship" from the drop down menu.

Sermons are also available for viewing on the website; printed versions are available at several locations in the church.

Support Third Church When You Shop at Amazon

Amazon Associates is a program which pays referral fees to Third Church when an Amazon customer accesses amazon.com through the Third Church website.

Go to www.thirdpresbyterian.org and click on the Amazon logo on the homepage. Shop as you usually do, and Amazon will send a percentage of your purchase to Third Church. It's a great way to generate income for Third Church at no additional cost to you!

Find Us on Twitter and Instagram!

In addition to Facebook, Third Church is also on Twitter and Instagram at handle @ThirdChurchROC. Join the conversation!