

DECEMBER 14, 2025 WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude

Welcome

Advent Liturgy

Woodward family

CAROLS: A CANTATA FOR CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

Joy to the World

Luke 2:1-7

Away in a Manger

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Offertory

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Prayers of the People

Paul Reader

Micah 5:2, 4-5a

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Luke 2:8-18

The First Noel

Message Rev. Keith Fink

Simeon

Luke 2:22-35

Joy to the World \sim Reprise

WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD

Benediction Postlude

We exist to glorify God by enabling all people to become fully devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We prayerfully strive, through the Holy Spirit, to fulfill our purpose by worship, Biblical teaching, service, fellowship, and active involvement in world evangelization.

3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Unison: Open my eyes that I may see

Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me Place in my hands the wonderful key That shall unclasp and set me free

Silently now I wait for Thee Ready, my God, Thy will to see

Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

~Hymn #367

Leader: Although Simeon was very old, he never lost hope that he would see the

Messiah. He proclaims in Luke 2:30, "For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light of revelation to the

Gentiles and for glory to Your people, Israel."

Lighter: We light this candle on the 3rd Sunday in Advent to remember Simeon, who

waited patiently into his old age for the coming of Jesus.

Unison: Simeon reached for the young child in Mary's arms. Rheumy eyes,

drizzled with emotions and old age; eyelids involuntarily winking against the sunlight, heavy pouches of long thought and longer

expectation, Simeon declares this child to be the Salvation of God for all

peoples.

~ Walter Wangerin, Jr., Preparing for Jesus

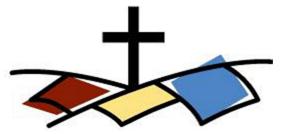
A Witness to His Coming Simeon Luke 2:22-35

Question: From where do I seek comfort when faced with life's greatest pains and disappointments?

- I. Waiting for the Consolation Jesus Brings (22-27)
- II. Waiting for the Salvation Jesus Brings (28-32)
- III. Waiting for the Great Divide Jesus Brings (33-35)

Point to Ponder: Our wealth, our home, and our friends can each provide some level of comfort and consolation in the face of the pain, and disappointment we face in this world – ah, but they all fail us in the face of our own death, and the knowledge of our own sin. Jesus alone can bring us the consolation for which our heart longs in the face of these deep things. Ask God to use Simeon's story to give us eyes to see Jesus afresh this season.

Next Week: We will continue our Advent Sermon Series, *A Witness to His Coming* by considering Luke 2:36-38, "Anna."



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CAROLS

A Cantata for Congregation and Choir

BY HEATHER SORENSON

A NOTE FROM THE COMPOSER

There are certain carols that must be sung every December. These beloved carols root the simplicity of Christmas deep into our hearts during an often over-processed season. Both musicians and non-musicians alike find tranquility and hope in singing the carols that have been passed down from generation to generation. May you find peace, comfort, and joy in singing these CAROLS during the holiday season!

Blessings, *Heather*

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Heather Sorenson is an internationally known composer, orchestrator, pianist, and songwriter. With hundreds of compositions in print, Heather is one of the most recognized names in the church music industry. Eclectic in her musicianship, Heather easily maneuvers the classical, traditional, and modern genres of sacred music. Her ability to navigate such a wide diversity of style and venue earns her the qualification of being one of the most versatile musicians in the industry with performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Constitution Hall, church sanctuaries, and university campuses.

While Heather's music is highly eclectic—soaring cinematic orchestral scores, impressionistic piano writing, choral compositions, and singer-songwriter ballads, CONNECTION is the common thread in her musicianship. Her notes and lyrics consistently connect deeply with her audiences, allowing her to break through genre barriers and stylistic preferences.

Although her career is often on a big stage, Heather's heart is leading the Church in worship, and she feels that her greatest calling is using her music to connect people with God.

ABOUT GREAT VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Great Valley Presbyterian Church exists to glorify God by enabling all people to become fully devoted followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. We prayerfully strive, through the Holy Spirit, to fulfill our purpose by worship, Biblical teaching, service, fellowship, and active involvement in world evangelization.

On Sunday mornings we worship at 8:00 and 10:15 am, with Christian Education for all ages at 9:00. Our Sunday worship centers on the reading, explanation, and application of the Bible to everyday life. The music at our services is a mix of traditional and modern with an emphasis on congregational participation. Children are always welcome in our worship services, and we offer childcare in the nursery for infants (up to 18 months) and preschoolers (up to age 4) during the 10:15am service.

Great Valley is a place where you can be known, encouraged, and supported. Faith is more than Sunday morning, and we share life together throughout the week—caring for one another, serving our community, and growing in the Gospel. If you are joining us today as a guest, we hope you experience a warm welcome and a sense of the community God is forming here.

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CHANCEL CHOIR

Pannir Alexander	Annika Callan	Briana Callan
Susie Capriola	Gina Edwards	Craig Erickson
Karen Erickson	Gary Floyd	Julie Frost
Rick Frost	Ken Garrison	Steve Garrison
Beth Gombarick	Linda Gyrath	Donna Herbst
Beth Johnson	Sharon Jonaitis	Carol Jones
Phil Jones	Steve Krauchick	Irene Clarke Lackman
Ginny Landoll	Pam Oakes	Susan Palmer
Robyn Price	Sigrid Reader	Sonja Reader
Barry Sandin	David Sarley	Nancy Sarley
Jonathan Schuck	Rhonda Shuck	Cathy Shaw
Brad Smith	Aria Starr	Vicky Starr
Tracey Toms	Bill Vache	Sophie Watson
Paul Welle		Evelyn Klein Whitfield

ORCHESTRA

violin I Vicky HyunJin Lee violin I Tom Ryan violin II Madeleine Smith violin II Hannah Han viola Wendy Nawn cello Jennifer Jie Jin cello Millie Montgomery bass Paul B. Toms Dale Krauchick flute
Rachel Schuck oboe, flute
Lisa Sybrandt clarinet
Asher Callan horn
James Waldron trumpet
Les Zan percussion
Sharon Smoker keyboards

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

audio Sean Moir Jaden Simelaro broadcast lyrics John Haney

SOLOISTS

Elijah Reader Vicky Starr

SCRIPTURE READERS

Brian Hilton Margaret Key Joel Starr

WORSHIP LEADER

Linda Pittounicos

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Christopher Starr

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