



**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 ~ Reprise*

**WE DEPART TO SERVE GOD'S WORLD**

Benediction

Postlude

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fellowship, and active involvement in world evangelization.*

### 3<sup>RD</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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*

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*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)**

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**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  
Susie Capriola  
Karen Erickson  
Rick Frost  
Beth Gombarick  
Beth Johnson  
Phil Jones  
Ginny Landoll  
Robyn Price  
Barry Sandin  
Jonathan Schuck  
Brad Smith  
Tracey Toms  
Paul Welle

Annika Callan  
Gina Edwards  
Gary Floyd  
Ken Garrison  
Linda Gyrath  
Sharon Jonaitis  
Steve Krauchick  
Pam Oakes  
Sigrid Reader  
David Sarley  
Rhonda Shuck  
Aria Starr  
Bill Vache

Briana Callan  
Craig Erickson  
Julie Frost  
Steve Garrison  
Donna Herbst  
Carol Jones  
Irene Clarke Lackman  
Susan Palmer  
Sonja Reader  
Nancy Sarley  
Cathy Shaw  
Vicky Starr  
Sophie Watson  
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  
**lyrics** John Haney

Jaden Simelaro **broadcast**

## 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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