



**Welcome to Worship
Kingston Presbyterian Church**

We Gather in Spirit. ~ Worship December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude: *Nativity*

Fred B. Binckes

Call to Worship

Bea Hwong

One; A voice calls out in the wilderness.

All: It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.

One: We could choose to ignore it.

All: We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.

One: Instead, we come into this space.

All: We let the world grow quiet. We listen.

One: A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?

All: We hear it. In listening, we worship.

One: Let us draw near to God.

***Hymn:** *People, Look East*

GTG #105

Advent Wreath

Voice 1: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Voice 2: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

All: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Voice 1: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

Voice 2: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

All: Joy is the energy of a new season.

Voice1: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

All: So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

Voices 1&2: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

All: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

Prayer of Confession ~*We Tell the Truth about Ourselves and We Turn to God*

Expansive God, we know that the church is your house, and your house has room for everyone. Yet, too often, instead of setting the table for our neighbors, we block the door. Instead of welcoming all, we judge others by our own standards. Instead of sharing our second coat, we hide it in the attic, holding on to fear instead of letting go with love. Remind us that your home is a home for all, that truth requires hard work, that truth requires uncomfortable justice. Help us to be bold enough to see it and brave enough to live it. With hope we pray. [Silent confession] And all the congregation said, Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith, God sent prophets like John the Baptist to us because this work is not easy. Helping create a world where all might have a home, and all might be loved, and all might know peace, is an audacious goal. Fortunately for us, when we mess up—when we lose our way or forget our call—we are met with grace. God could not love us any more or any less than God already does. So rest in this good news: **We are at home with God—forgiven, claimed, and loved. The door is always open for us. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

***Response:** *Glory Be to the Father*

GTG #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

DISCIPLES LISTEN TO THE WORD OF THE LORD

Children's Time

Pastor Sharyl

Scripture: Luke 3: 1-18

Sermon: *Close to Home ~ A Home for All* [Joy]

Pastor Sharyl

DISCIPLES RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Tithes & Gifts

Continuing our worship, we will give back to God our offerings, gifts, pledges placed in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary or by mail or online with Tithe.ly at <https://kingstonpresbyterian.org>. We offer God our hearts, hands, minds and money as an expression of gratitude and our love for God and as a marker of our partnership with God through our Kingston Presbyterian Church.

Offertory: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

arr. Ardis Freeman

Intergenerational Tone Chimes and Choir

***Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

GTG #606

**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**

Prayers of the People

God of open doors and porch lights, of welcome mats and candles in the window— we cannot thank you enough for your open-door policy. You are forever welcoming us home...

We pray these things together, as your grateful people, praying as you taught us, saying: **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**

DISCIPLES ARE SENT AND BLESSED TO SERVE GOD

***Hymn:** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* [vs.5-7]

GTG #88

***Benediction**

As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.

Postlude: *The "Waits" Carol*

Gilbert M. Martin

Flowers



Today's flowers are in honor of Dalia Briand Kohn, first great-grandchild of Ray & Jean Gibson born December 3.

Please Note – December 19 - The Christmas Pageant during the 11AM service.