





# The Setauket Presbyterian Church

*“As active disciples of Jesus Christ, we celebrate and share the love of God among ourselves and with others.”*

## THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2013

9:30 AM

### PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*We use this time to make the transition between “getting here” and “being here.”  
Be aware of being together in silence with others. Feel the spirit of the community.*

**Prelude**

**Ringling of the Steeple Bell**

**Introit** *People Look East* (verse 2)

French folk melody

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

...Let us wait in the light of the Lord.

**Sung Response**

***People, look east, and sing today: Love, the Rose, is on the way!***

\* Hymn 11 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?*

VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of the future, you are coming in glory to fill your world with goodness. We confess that in all our preparations for the Christmas holiday, we are still unprepared for you. Where we might be opening our hearts and our lives to receive you, we are busy filling them up, as though we did not really believe you were coming. Help our unbelief: give us grace to leave open our unfilled places, so that when our guest comes, they become places of honor, and we are ready with a joyful welcome in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord...**

*(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection) Amen.*

**Assurance of God’s Grace**

...Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* Gloria (from Hymn 23, *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

### WITH THE CHILDREN AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

(Children should proceed to their church school class.)

### HEARING THE WORD

**Sung Prayer for Illumination**

Hymn 5, Verse 1 (PICARDY)

***Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand,***

***Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,***

***Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.***

**First Reading** Isaiah 35:1-10

**The Return of the Redeemed to Zion**

<sup>35</sup>The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup>it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands,  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
'Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not [travel](#) on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,

but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Second Reading** Matthew 11:2-11

**Messengers from John the Baptist**

2 When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples<sup>3</sup> and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?'<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup>the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup>And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

**Jesus Praises John the Baptist**

7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup>What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup>What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup>This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."<sup>11</sup> Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

**SPECIAL CHRISTMAS MUSIC PROGRAM**

*Christmas Cantata*

Daniel Pinkham

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THANKING GOD THROUGH OUR OFFERINGS**

**Offertory** *Thus Saith The Lord/But Who May Abide*

G.F. Handel

Tom Loomis, Solo

(Please sign the Friendship Rosters found at the end of the pew, noting the name of fellow worshippers when it is returned.)

\* **Doxology 592**

\* **Prayer of Dedication**

**Holy One, you who are complete in yourself and the source of all power and grace, place within us the spirit of the coming Christ, fill us with such thankfulness that we become a blessing to everyone we meet, and send into your world through us the abundant life we have through the one who was, and is, and is to come, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

\* **HYMN 13** *Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VAG FÖR HERRAN

\* **CHARGE TO THE CONGREGATION and BENEDICTION**

**CHORAL RESPONSE** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

John Rutter

**POSTLUDE**

*\*please rise in body or in spirit; **unison prayers are in bold.***

Large print bulletins, Bibles, hymnals and listening devices are available; please ask a Deacon.

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**NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- 9:30 Worship Service with Children's Christmas Pageant; Childcare (ages 1 - 3);  
Founders Basket Sale after Service
- 9:45 Church School (Preschool through 6th Grade)
- 11:00 Confirmation Class in the Confirmation Cave (downstairs)
- 11:00 Adult Education Class in the Jr./Sr. High Room (Hope, Ethics & Deeply Forgetful)
- 11:00 Adult Education Class in the Fellowship Hall (Christmas Carols)
- 5:00 Staff Christmas Party