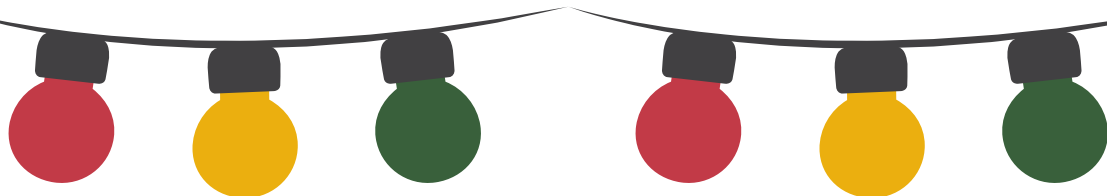




Thank you for the amazing Advent Fair!



MANY THANKS
*to Family Life, Kathy Ludwig, the Deacons,
 participants, volunteers, and you!*



SOUTHMINSTER

Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 12, 2021

AN INCLUSIVE, WELCOMING COMMUNITY OF CHRISTIAN FAITH.
 OUR MISSION IS TO MANIFEST CHRIST'S LOVE IN THE WORLD.



After staying in the south of France, in Arles, and then at the psychiatric hospital in Saint-Rémy de Provence, Vincent Van Gogh settled in Auvers-sur-Oise, a village in the outskirts of Paris.

His brother Théo, concerned with his health, incited him to see the Doctor Gachet, himself a painter and a friend of numerous artists, who accepted to treat him. During the two months separating his arrival, on May 21, 1890 and his death on July 29, the artist made about seventy paintings, including this one. During that time he created over one painting per day, not to mention a large number of drawings.

The Church in Auvers-sur-Oise, View from the Chevet by Vincent van Gogh 1890

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*For those who are able, please stand

- Sunday Starter in December: Nativity Story.
- Thank you for your generosity filling our Vose Christmas Baskets.
- Family Promise is seeking gift cards for families, deadline is December 19
- Foundation grant applications are being sought.

CENTERING & LIGHTING CANDLES

Lay Reader: Julie Ray

Choir Director: Steven Schaefer

Pianist: Kenn Willson

Candlelighters: The Mouzong Family

PAUSE FOR REFLECTION

Henri Matisse

“I don't think outside the box. I think of what I can do with the box.”

LITANY FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE 3RD ADVENT CANDLE

All creation holds its breath.

The time is almost here.

A heavenly choir waits for its cue to sing.

Angels are gathering around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.

Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

We gather to make ready our hearts **for the coming of Christ, our hope.**

CANDLELIGHTING HYMN

While We Are Waiting, Come #92

*OPENING HYMN

Lift Up Your Head, Ye Mighty Gates #93

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Children are dismissed, youth remain in worship.

GREEK TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 11:2-11

When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”

Jesus replied, “Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy[a] are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.” As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written:

‘I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’

Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

THEME READING

Elaine Pagels PhD on how the earliest Christians showed God's love

“Those in need could find immediate, practical help almost anywhere in the empire where great cities, then, as now, were crowded with people [struggling to survive]. Inhabitants of the vast shantytowns that surrounded those cities tried to survive by begging, stealing, and prostitution . . . Members of the Christian family contributed money to a fund to support orphans abandoned on the streets and garbage dumps. Christians brought food, medicine, and companionship to prisoners forced to work in mines, banished to prison islands, or held in jail.”

SPECIAL MUSIC CHANCEL CHOIR

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. by Natalie Sleeth

Directed by Steven Schaefer

Pianist, Kenn Willson

SERMON

Hope in the King

Rev. Scott Dalgarno

RESPONSIVE HYMN

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry #96

CORPORATE PRAYER

a transliteration of the Jesus Prayer

Oh Thou, from whom the breath of life comes, who fills all realms of sound, light and vibration. May Your light be experienced in our hearts.

Your Heavenly Domain approaches. Let Your will come true - in the universe and on earth. Give us wisdom for our daily needs, detach the fetters of faults that bind us, as we do our best to let go of the guilt of others.

Let us not be lost in superficial things, but let us be freed from that which keeps us from our true purpose. From You comes the all-working will, the lively strength to act, the song that beautifies all and renews itself from age to age. Sealed in trust, faith and truth, confirm it in this, your community.

OFFERTORY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Arr. Craig Curry

Kenn Willson, Pianist

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.

Good works of service are for offering. When we are giving, or when receiving, We belong to God. We belong to God. We belong to God. We belong to God.

CLOSING SONG

In the Bleak Midwinter

#144 verses 1, 3, 4

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FELLOWSHIP