

WORSHIP NOTES

If the hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* seems haunting and ancient, it is. The words are translated from the Greek of the 4th century Liturgy of St. James and first published in a 9th century manuscript. The tune, *Picardy*, is a French melody of the 17th century and its name reflects the region from which the tune was gathered.

The third gospel (Luke) begins, not with Jesus, but with John the Baptist. Luke places in parallel columns, not intertwined narratives: the annunciation of John/ the annunciation of Jesus; Mary’s song/ Zechariah’s prophecy; John’s birth and childhood/ Jesus’ birth and childhood. Luke’s originality in including John’s infancy story is just the start as this gospel gives us the most extensive account of John the Baptist. And, because Luke keeps writing a second volume, we have evidence that John continued to be an important figure for the early church; in fact *Acts* 1:21-22 dates the arche of the gospel (and apostolate) to John’s ministry of baptism. Writer Walter Wink goes so far as to describe the first two chapters of Luke as “the earliest Christian hagiography,” in which the birth of John is lavished with all the devotion due the first Christian saint (emphasis his).¹ There are 28 pericopae in all concerning John the Baptist in Luke/Acts (*Acts* 1:5, 1:21-22, 10:37, 11:16, 13:24-25, 18:25, 19:1-7). And he is mentioned 99 times in the New Testament as a whole, exceeded in frequency only by Jesus, Paul and Peter.

Malcolm Archer (born England, 1952), composer of *Creator of the Stars of Night*, is an English organist, choral conductor, and organist. Until Sept. 2007, Archer was Organist and Director of Music at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. He is currently Director of Chapel Music and Organist at Winchester College (London), where he is in charge of the Winchester College Chapel Choir as well as teaching the organ.

¹Walter Wink, **John the Baptist in the Gospel Tradition** (Cambridge: At The University Press, 1968), 79.

THE FLOWERS in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. Robert I. Dickson, beloved husband, father and Papa by the Dickson and Thorpe families✝

NEXT SUNDAY’S PREACHER will be the Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton.

THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Parish House: 62 East 92nd Street, New York, New York 10128-1398 | On the web at www.brickchurch.org
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MINISTERS

The Rev. Dr. Kimberly L. Clayton, *Transitional Senior Minister*
The Rev. Douglas T. King, *Senior Associate Minister*
The Revs. Rebekah McLeod Hutto & Adam D. Gorman, *Associate Ministers*
The Rev. Michael L. Lindvall, *Pastor Emeritus*
Hannah F. Allred, Brian K. Ballard, Joshua H. Narcisse, *Student Ministers*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Keith S. Tóth, *Minister of Music and Organist*
Amanda Page Smith, *Director of Children’s Music Ministries*
Meg Cutting, *Wilson Family Yale Sacred Music Intern*

USHERS

Officer-in-Charge: Frederick A. Ehlert; *Team Captain:* Robert D. McCrie, Christopher A. Carroll, Luc M. Dowling, Anke K. Ehlert, Maxime C. Guignand, Leigh W. Hoagland, Alex G. Li, Helen M. Lynch, Margaret E. Pennoyer, Paul W. Shaum, Jonathan D. Stone, John D. Tuttle, Christopher R. Wight.

GREETERS

Leader: Christopher Carroll; Nicholas M. Berry, Taylor P. Boswell, Shelby S. Carroll, Courtney D. Leidy, Sarah R. Moister, Taylor C. Moister, Stephen M. Salley, F. Stuart Swann, Laura A. Swann, Brent Vosters.

ORDER OF ST. PAUL

Michael J. Appleby, Nathan P. Appleby, Leah C. Lee, Deborah M. Li, Caroline C. Pickering, Alexander N. Rahman, Christopher L. Allen, *Beadle*.

CHANCEL CHOIR

Soprano: R. Lynne Lee, Isabella Livorni, Tonna L. Miller-Vallés, Artemisz Polonyi, Catherine Thorpe, Elizabeth Van Os, *Alto:* Agueda Fernández-Abad, Allison Gish, Jessica Kimple, Melissa Raymond. *Tenor:* Richard Liebowitz, Jeremy Little, Johnny Maldonado, Jeffrey Taveras. *Bass:* William S. Crutchfield III, Daniel Hoy, Scott Lindroth, Ryan Stoudt, Nathaniel Sullivan

SESSION

Sallie J. Abelow, Patrick A. F. Blott, Susan P. Crary, Paul J. Elmlinger, R. Scott Froehlich, Scripture Z. Gonzalez, Mark A. Greenwood, Shannon D. Henderson, William S. Hilburn, Harold P. Hope III, Anne R. Huneke, R. Lynne Lee, Sue-Peng Li, Robert D. McCrie, Helen B. Pennoyer, Elizabeth M. Philipp, Clare C. Pickering, Brian J. Pitz, Susan A. Powell, Debra N. Seraphim, Richard H. Stowe, Katherine C. Vosters, Ryan E. Widener, Henry M. Wildermuth (*Youth Elder*), Suzanne W. Wilson, Frances G. Laserson, *Clerk of Session*.

DEACONS

Linda R. Arnold, Bret M. Barasch, Beth A. Bell, Arthur W. Bingham, Nancy T. Blair, Elizabeth A. Boehmler, Christopher A. Carroll, Blythe G. Chace (*Youth Deacon*), Carl C. Cordova III, E. Graham Clark, David M. Darst, Helen T. W. Elmiger, Marc T. Engberg, Joseph A. Galloway, William J. Gambrill, Jeffrey B. Gower, Christopher W. Hamilton, Kate S. Hrobsky, Cathy Leonhardt, Jane B. Lowry, Katrina K. Masterson, Amelia McDonald, M. Paige Rustum, Grace Sarno, Andrew R. Skobe, John D. Tuttle, Tanya S. Wells.

TRUSTEES

Charles S. Anderson, Kenneth W. Austin, Patrick D. Barrett, Erik M. W. Caspersen, Kevin R. Greene, Linda B. Gridley, Timothy D. Haskin, Helen M. Lynch, Valerie S. Mason, *Secretary*, Richard A. Miller, *President*, Drucilla A. Richards, Willis G. Ryckman IV, Louisa J. Palmer, *Treasurer*.

— THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR —

Second Sunday in Advent

— ELEVEN O’CLOCK —

WELCOME The moments before worship are a transition from “getting here” to “being here.” Since it usually takes a few minutes to quiet one’s mind, and to become open to the Spirit, it is most appropriate to give one’s friends a silent wave of the hand, a nod of the head, or a friendly smile in lieu of initiating a conversation.

AFTER THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN, in order not to disrupt the worship service, latecomers will be seated by the ushers only at times when the congregation is standing, either during the Congregational Response following the assurance of forgiveness or during the second hymn.

VISITORS, please know how welcome you are. Please sign the Friendship Book when it passes you during the service of worship and identify yourself with a name tag to be found in the book. You are also cordially invited to attend Coffee Hour following worship.

IN THE ORDER OF WORSHIP that follows, an asterisk invites all to stand; items in bold type face indicate that the congregation participates in word or song.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE DAY
Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
“Es ist ein’ Ros’ entsprungen, op. 22 no. 8”
Meg Cutting, *organist*

WELCOME AND INVITATION TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CHORAL INTROIT

Eyn Enchiridion, 1524

“Savior of the Nations, Come”

Savior of the nations, come, Virgin’s Son, make here Your home. Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and you can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fuller’s soap; He will purify the descendants of Levi, and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.”

Malachi Chapter 3, Verses 1-4
Fran and Galen Laserson and Tenley, Greer, and Renner Chepiga

PRAYER FOR ADVENT AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 5

Picardy

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, purify and cleanse us, for we have not followed your commandments or walked in your ways. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our hearts. We have failed to trust in Your promises and power. We have turned away from neighbors in need and lived for ourselves alone. Call us back to faithfulness. Restore us in righteousness. Help us to hear the messengers You send; help us to do what is pleasing to You, now and forever. Amen.

KYRIE 574

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Hymn 8, verse 3)*

Truro

**Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

PRESENTATION

HYMN 498

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
(Verse 1)

Kingdom

Please remain seated.

The children being baptized today are:

Carolyn Ingrid Ruth Albright,
daughter of Karen Fagerstrom Albright and Bradley Jon Albright

Eleanor Phillips Gutwillig,
daughter of Victoria Phillips Morphy Gutwillig and Jacob Harris Gutwillig

Grant Scott Jamison,
son of Yilin Nie Jamison and Stephen Scott Jamison

Georgia Madison McLaughlin,
daughter of Eliza Madison McLaughlin and Christopher James McLaughlin

Chase MacDonald Moorhead,
son of Brooke MacDonald Moorhead and Rodman Wister Moorhead IV

Luciana Emilia Rodriguez,
daughter of Joanna Luizza Colaneri and Manuel Rodriguez Moreno

Sallie J. Abelow, William S. Hilburn, Frances G. Laserson, Peter J. Manning, Clare C. Pickering, Sue-Peng Li and Helen B. Pennoyer will assist with today’s baptisms.

BAPTISMAL QUESTIONS AND PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise...**

BAPTISM

BLESSING AND WELCOME

HYMN 498

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
(Verses 2-4)

Kingdom

Please remain seated.

Children will be dismissed for Sunday Church School classes after the baptisms.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION AND

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Pamela J. Dickson-Thorpe

Luke 1:67-80 *(Pew Bible, page 58 N. T.)*

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*HYMN 602

“Song of Zechariah”

Benedictus

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Kimberly L Clayton

“Zechariah Finds His Voice”

THE RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND PETITION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray...

* CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

America

**Not for this land alone,
But be God’s mercies shown from shore to shore;
And may the nations see that we must loving be,
And form one family the wide world o’er. Amen.**

* INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

“Creator of the Stars of Night”

Creator of the stars of night, thy people’s everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet all divine. At thy great name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, and things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, laud, honour, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

* DOXOLOGY 592

Old Hundredth

**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.**

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE SENDING

* RECESSIONAL HYMN 38

Carol

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

Matthias Weckmann (1616-1674)

“Magnificat secundi toni”
Meg Cutting *organist*

If you would like someone to pray with you or wish to learn more about the Christian faith and The Brick Church, you may meet with members of our Sunday Prayer Team after the service near the pulpit at the front of the Sanctuary.