



How does a
weary world
rejoice? *We allow ourselves
to be amazed*

Cover Art: “Watercourses”, by Hannah Garrity, inspired by Psalm 126, oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas

This painting is a meditation on the holy watercourses of the Negeb and all of the metaphors within that image. I painted with oil paint, charcoal, and copper leaf on canvas; the copper represents joy in our weary world.

For God, we are weary and we see no end to the weariness. Lament with us. Holy One, you are steadfast in your love like the watercourses of the Negeb. In your name, we call out evil. When we do, we are glimmers of hope. By your example, we act in the ways of Jesus. When we do, we are shimmers of joy. We often fall short; forgive us. We strive on, for when we succeed, your new heaven shines through. Strive with us.

Mother God, in this time of ascending fear, how do we stay aware of the needs of the world, active toward the renewal of your people, and focused on the specifics that are in your control through your call to us? Keep awake with us.

Adonai, it is in your name that we give ourselves time to lament. With you, we cry together. When our ancestors emerged from exile, by the rivers of Babylon, we sat down, and there we wept when we remembered Zion. The power of nostalgia—is it getting in the way of your work? Cry with us.

Holy Wisdom, we allow ourselves to be amazed, to dream, to lean into your call to garner your gifts the way raindrops become creeks and creeks become coursing rivers. We challenge ourselves to see the glimmers of hope in the murky waters of our current time. We beg you for clarity, but no, you continue to show us the way through subtle nudges, not obvious signs. We must flow on in endless song. How can we keep from singing? Perhaps our tears and our songs are one. Sing with us.

Holy Word, may our actions match your call, your claim on our lives. May we come together in our lament to sow the change your justice calls forth. Sow with us, we pray, that our next generation may reap our tears with shouts of joy. Amen.

—Hannah Garrity

*With Christ as the Cornerstone, we will build a church of living stones,
where every member is a minister and is equipped to express God's love
by word and deed to all people.*

Based on 1 Peter 2:5, 6

The Worship of God

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Gathering Music

“Light Dawns on a Weary World”

TEMPLE OF PEACE;
Words by Mary Louise Pringle,
Music by William P. Rowan

“Glory (Let There Be Peace)”

Words and Music by Chris Stevens,
Matt Maher, and Rachel Popadic

“Wait for It”

Words and Music by
Christian Mclvor ©2017

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

CAROL;
Words by Edmund H. Sears,
Music by Richard S. Willis

Prelude

“He Whom Joyous Shepherd Praised”
Pam Weis

arr. Philip M. Young

Welcome

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Call to Worship

One: Our God can part the sea.

**All: God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

One: Our God can walk on water.

**All: He can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

One: Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**All: God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

One: There is nothing our God cannot do.

All: Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

One: How does a weary world rejoice?
How do we give peace and love a voice?
How do we find joy in suffering?
In grateful hope, together we will sing.

† *Please rise in body or spirit.*

✠ Opening Carol 256

“Love Has Come”

BRING A TORCH;
Words by Ken Bible, French Carol Melody

**Love has come— a light in the darkness!
Love explodes in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
Hear how their song of joy arises: Love! Love!
Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.**

**Love is born! Come share in the wonder;
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of His mother;
What is the name her heart is saying? Love! Love!
Love is the name she whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.**

**Love has come— He never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us;
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking. Love! Love!
Love is the gift of Christmas; Love! Love! Praise to You, God on high!**

*During the last stanza of our Opening Carol,
all children are invited to come forward for today's children's sermon.*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Becky Sansbury, John Vestal

Children's Sermon

April Alston

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Anthem

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

GBC Choir

Words by Christina Rossetti,
Music by Gustav Holst arr. Dan Forrest

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone:
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air,
But only His mother, in her maiden bliss,
(His mother) worshiped the Beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can, I give Him: give my heart.
Give my heart.

† Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL; Words by Thomas Ken,
15th Century French Melody

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel**

† Prayer of Dedication

Delaney Metcalf

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:57-66

Trish Boone

Sermon

"Wow!"

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Silent Reflection

Invitation

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

† Musical Response 281

"What Child Is This?"

GREENSLEEVES;
Words by William C. Dix,
traditional English Melody

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ, the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.**

**Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.**

(Refrain)

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

(Refrain)

Celebrating Community

Steve Rose

Benediction

Chrissy Tatum Williamson

Postlude

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!”
Cynthia Griesedieck

arr. Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

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by Hannah Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

For centuries the Dutch placed Cradle Crosses over the beds of their infant children-that this symbol of the Christian faith might always be a part of the child’s consciousness. Today we hang a Cradle Cross to celebrate the birth of our newest member of our Greystone family.

Avery Elaine Hollingsworth, 11/30/23, daughter of parents,
Michael and Lindsey, sister to Preston

Financial Information as of November 30, 2023 - Estimated

Contributions Received:	\$664,363.63
Expenses:	\$663,256.19
Net:	\$ 1,107.44

Thank you to Cranberry Tree Farms for their gracious donation of wreaths
and for the beautiful Chrismon trees in the Sanctuary.

Greystone Staff

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Anna Beth Cross, Associate Minister, Students and Digital Discipleship
Christian McIvor, Minister of Worship, Music, and the Arts
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