

Welcome to Worship on this 3rd of Advent. Advent is the first season of the Christian liturgical year - a time of hopeful waiting and expectation. We mark time in Advent for four weeks, preparing for God to come among us, to be born in us in afresh in Christmas-tide. May you and yours be blessed this day through this time of worship together.

If you are here today for the first or second time, we hope you feel welcome as a guest of this community of faith. Faith in Jesus Christ is the mark of a Christian and a disciple of Christ, and is therefore the only requirement for membership in this church. Please prayerfully consider joining this family of faith! Please talk with our pastor, and learn more by visiting us at www.cwupc.org and www.pcusa.org and on Facebook: Carter-Westminster United Presbyterian Church.

Assisting us in worship leadership today are Leo Radosavljevic, Pat and George Radosavljevic, John Yonan, the Chancel Choir, and Ken Hockenberry.

Next Sunday, December 24th, is the 4th Sunday of Advent; we will gather for worship at **10:45 AM** (no Sunday School). Then that afternoon, at **5:00 PM**, we will gather again for our Christmas Eve Vespers - **A Service of Lessons and Carols**. You and yours are most welcome!

**The Session, Deacons, Trustees, and Staff of
Carter - Westminster United Presbyterian Church**

Session Ruling Elders: (2017), Barbara Boba, Sam Mirza, Abe Samuels, (2018) Kenneth Jacobs, Carolyn Kapteyn, Doris Nadder, John Serritella, Sam Bakou; (2019) Lisa Novel.

Deacons: (2017) Sue Americus, Lynn O'Dea, Hilda Karam; (2018) Phyllis Boba, Irene Ellyin, Rita Witzgall; (2019) Neena Ishu, Helen Oshona.

Trustees: (2017) Hugh McBride, Mac McClendon, Robert Rustemeyer; (2018) Julia Dooman, Rodney Esmael; (2019) Donald Rustemeyer.

Staff and Church Leaders:

Interim Pastor - Ken Hockenberry
Music Director and Organist - Pat Radosavljevic
Church Secretary - Karen Daughtry
Clerk of Session - Sam Mirza
Church Treasurer - John Yonan
Financial Secretary - Doris Nadder
Worship Technician - Elliott Nott
Nursery Attendants - Silva Birwari & Noora Badeen

The Community of
**Carter - Westminster United
Presbyterian Church**

*Gathered for Worship
During the Season of Advent - 2017*

Sunday Morning Worship - 10:45 AM

December 17, 2017
The Third Sunday of Advent

Gathering in God's Name

Gathering of the People

Prelude "Go Tell it on the Mountain" ARR. HOWARD HELVEY

Greeting, Welcome, and Announcements

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***Call to Worship**

Jesus says: I am coming soon.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

John came as a witness
to testify to the light, so that all might believe.

***Opening Hymn # 259 (Stanzas 1-4)** REGENT SQUARE
"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

**God our Maker, we confess that we are not ready to meet you.
You send your Spirit to release us, yet we remain captivated by sin.
You shine around us as light, yet we prefer the darkness.**

**Forgive us, God of grace. Make us holy; make us whole.
Keep us safe and sound until the day of your coming;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

One: . . . In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen!

***Act of Praise (See Screen) "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"** IN DULCI JUBILO
**Good Christian friends, rejoice - with heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss - Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

***The Peace**

One: . . . The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**
*(Please share the peace of Christ with one another, then join in our Advent
Gathering Again Song, "Wait for the Lord" - on the screen)*

Word Proclaimed

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles

Response "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL
**O Come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (p. 691-692)
Holy wisdom, Holy word - **Thanks be to God**

Offering of Music "Our Lord Emmanuel" HAL HOPSON

Second Lesson: John 1:6-8, 19-28 (p. 91)
Holy wisdom, Holy word - **Thanks be to God**

Time with Young Disciples
(Children are invited to come to the chancel steps, and then go to child care.)

***Hymn # 240 "Of the Father's Love Begotten"** DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Sermon "John - the Witness?"

***Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed** *(On Screen)*

Sharing of Joys and Concerns - Prayers of the People

Thanksgiving

Offering and Offertory "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" ARR. JOEL RANEY

***Doxology # 815 "Praise God"** OLD HUNDREDTH

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and The Lord's Prayer** *(On Screen)*

Sending

***Hymn # 258 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"** GO TELL IT

***Invitation to Discipleship**

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude "Sleigh Ride" LEROY ANDERSON
(You are invited to be seated for the Postlude.)

***Going Forth**
(Please join one another for coffee hour downstairs - follow the crowd)

**Please rise in body and/or in spirit!*