









11:00 a.m. Worship • December 8, 2024

### ***Exploring Faith. Changing Lives.***

Sardis Presbyterian Church is an inclusive congregation called to equip disciples of Jesus Christ to impact the world by:

-  **PRAISING** God our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
-  **LEARNING** about God's will for our lives
-  **LOVING** one another unconditionally
-  **SERVING** neighbors near and far
-  **SHARING** the gifts with which we have been blessed
-  **WITNESSING** to the Good News of Jesus Christ to provide hope for the world.

We are honored that you chose to worship God with us this morning. If you are looking for a church home, we would love to help you explore the possibility that Sardis is the place God is calling you to worship and serve.

# WORSHIP



December 8, 2024

THE CHAPEL (through the doors to left of the pulpit) is available, with audio of the worship service, for those who need it (e.g. families with young children, those with health challenges, etc.).

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HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES with disposable ear coverings are available. Please speak with an usher and they will provide one for you. Additionally, Sardis now has a hearing loop in the Sanctuary. If your hearing aid has a t-coil, please sit in the main section of the sanctuary to take advantage of this technology.

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WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBILITY is provided in the main body of the Sanctuary, on the side aisles on the seventh pew, and in the transept area. A handicap unisex bathroom is located in the left rear hallway.

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PASTORAL EMERGENCIES: After hours and on weekends or holidays, please call the church office and leave a message, including a call-back number. A Pastor will be in touch with you shortly.

## WORSHIPING GOD TOGETHER

† Rise in body or in spirit.

### GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE Sonata No. 1, Andante and Allegro J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE AND CALL TO WORSHIP John and Pat Bell

Leader: Today we light the candle of peace. This candle reminds us that the story of Christ's birth involves God showing up right in the middle of our human stories—with Mary and Joseph, Elizabeth and Zechariah, Shepherds and people in Bethlehem, and with Herod and the Magi.

**People: Peace is Christ entering our human story. Peace says, "Do not be afraid." Peace remains beside us, even in unexpected or uncertain times.**

Leader: This Advent,  
**All: may we notice that God makes room for many stories.**

Leader: This Advent,  
**All: may we experience peace as Christ joins our stories together.**

Leader: In the light of the candle of peace.... I invite you to turn and greet our online worshippers and then turn to welcome a neighbor and share with each other: *Something that brings you peace during the holiday season (Ex. A song, an activity, an image or item).*

† HYMN #88 O Come, O Come Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Jackson Powell  
**Gracious God, you came to Earth and took part in our human story in Jesus Christ so that we might have peace on Earth and peace with you. Forgive us for all of the times and ways that we do not work for peace with you or with others. Forgive us when we try to make your story all about us. Forgive us when we fail to listen to the stories you have given others to share. Forgive us when we keep your story in our lives to ourselves instead of sharing the Good News of what you have done for us in Jesus Christ. By your Holy Spirit, free us from sin and move us to listen and move us to speak, all to your glory. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Jackson Powell  
Leader: Friends, believe the Good News.  
**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

† RESPONSE **Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!** *Gloria*

### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES OF CHRIST Amanda Hooks

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Dr. Schaaf

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 1:26-38 Dr. Schaaf

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Matthew 1:18-25 Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin

Leader: This is the word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Room in the Story for More Than One Story Dr. Martin

Welcome to our guest organist, Lois Buesser,  
and our guest flutist, Elizabeth Ehrenberg!

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

† HYMN #108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

*Divinum Mysterium*

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed (4th Century)

Dr. Schaaf

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Dr. Schaaf

**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.**

THE PRESENTATION OF GOD'S TITHE AND OUR OFFERING

Dr. Schaaf

*Please place your Prayer Request Cards in the offering basket.*

OFFERTORY

An Advent Credo  
*Chancel Choir*

*Joseph M. Martin*

I believe in joy. I believe in the promise of morning. I believe that Christ will come and wipe our tears away. I believe in hope. I believe in the life everlasting. I believe that Christ will come and bring a bright new day. Lord, in my heart, I believe.

When the darkness falls around me, in the still of the night, when shadows all surround me, faith will lead me to the morning light!

I believe in peace. I believe in a song for tomorrow. I believe that Christ will come and war shall be no more. I believe in love. I believe in the grace that unites us. I believe that Christ will come in glory from above. I believe in joy. I believe in hope. I believe in peace. I believe in Love. Lord, I believe.

† DOXOLOGY #606

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow  
**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. Amen.**

*Old Hundredth*

† PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Jackson Powell

## SENT BY THE WORD

† HYMN #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Might Gates

*Truro*

† BLESSING AND PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Martin

Leader: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Let's pass that peace with one another  
before we follow Jesus by carrying it out into the world.*

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

*Roberta Rowland-Raybold*

The Ushers today are members of the Clerks Ministry.

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**God's children of all ages are welcome in worship!** Children's worship activity bags can be found at the front entrance and in the younger children's worship space. The open space in the front right is provided for children 5 and under to experience all aspects of worship in ways that meet their developmental needs. Audio of the service can be heard in the Chapel if you and your child need to step out for a bit and the nursery is also open during worship for children 5 years and younger in the Education Building. Ask an usher if you need directions and speak with one of the pastors or Amanda Hooks if you have questions about how best to include your child in the experience of worship.

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**We have several offering options for you!**

**Option 1:** Make a credit card gift online using your mobile device: go to [sardis.org](http://sardis.org) and click on "Make a Gift Now"

**Option 2:** Text 'Sardis + amount' to 73256 (e.g. 'Sardis 100' = \$100)

**Option 3:** Click the QR code here to go directly to the secure online form.



**Option 4:** Place your offering in the offering plate.

Thank you for your gifts and support of Sardis Presbyterian Church.

Today's Anthem,  
An Advent Credo,  
was purchased as a gift  
by Wayne and Sue  
Docherty.



# THIS WEEK AT SARDIS

## Sunday, December 8

4:30 p.m.	Youth Bells and Choir	Admin Building
5:00 p.m.	WAM	Room 205
6:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Ed Hall

## Tuesday, December 10

9:00 a.m.	Yoga	Sardis House
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## Wednesday, December 11

6:00 p.m.	Christmas Dinner	Fellowship Hall
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## Thursday, December 12

9:00 a.m.	Yoga	Sardis House
3:00 p.m.	Room in the Inn	Sardis House
6:30 p.m.	Throne Together	Admin Building
7:30 p.m.	Sanctuary Choir	Admin Building

Check your Sunday and Wednesday emails or [sardis.org](http://sardis.org) for more events, activities, and Zoom links.

## SARDIS STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Joe B. Martin, IV	Senior Pastor
The Rev. Dr. Allysen Schaaf	Associate Pastor
John B. Nipe	Technical Arts Coordinator
Betsy Williams	Director of Youth Ministry
Amanda Hooks	Children's Ministry Coordinator
Beth Williams	Contemporary Worship Leader
Susan W. Chowning	Parish Aide
Kristen Suh	Director of Weekday School
Amy Read	Financial Manager
Leigh Anne Duncan	Director of Operations
Nikki L. Bolton	Director of Communications
Danelle R. Kime	Membership & Pastoral Care Coordinator
Blake Blackman	Operations Assistant
Mark J. Slimer	Director of Facilities
J. Alfredo Mendoza	Facility Team
Dennis G. Easter	Facility Team
Sam R. Johnson	Facility Team

The poinsettias in the sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Azilee and Bill Tucker and Thelma Ellett** by the Tucker family.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Online Alternative Gift Market is open December 1-18.** This Christmas you can make a positive difference in the lives of people in our community and around the world facing daily struggles to obtain food, shelter, medical care, and basic education through an Alternative Gift Market gift. Visit [sardis.org/alternative-gift-market](http://sardis.org/alternative-gift-market) to learn more and make a gift.

**Angel Tree Gifts Are Due Today, December 8!**

**Room In The Inn Donations And Volunteers Are Needed.** Check your emails or [sardis.org](http://sardis.org) for a list of needed items and volunteer sign up.

**Annual Christmas Dinner on December 11.** Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The whole family is invited to come enjoy musical entertainment by Throne Together and a Christmas dinner. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 6-8, and free for children 5 and under. Register using the QR code above.



**Service of Hope and Remembrance on December 18.** This service will be a time to remember and give thanks for the life of a loved one who has passed; it will be a time to claim afresh the certain promises that are ours through our Savior, whose birth we celebrate. Join us on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and live on YouTube.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services.** Invite your friends and neighbors to join you in celebrating the birth of Christ at Sardis. We have three Christmas Eve worship service offerings:

- **4:00 p.m.** Contemporary Family Christmas Eve service in the Fellowship Hall with special fellowship opportunities like a photo booth, crafts, Christmas book giveaway, and more! The nursery will be open for this service.
- **7:00 p.m.** Traditional candlelight worship in the Sanctuary.
- **9:00 p.m.** Traditional candlelight worship in the Sanctuary with Sacrament of Holy Communion.

If you would like to be a Scripture Reader on Christmas Eve, use the QR code below!

**We Welcome New Ushers** to participate each week at the 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Instructions and coordinators will be provided by one of the church ministries. Use the QR code below to sign up!

**Sardis Sign-Up Genius!** Use this QR code to access any and all Sardis Sign-Ups.



# 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest  
 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
 4 O come, thou Root of Jes - se, free thine own from



cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
 all things might - i - ly: to us the path of knowl - edge  
 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the  
 Sa - tan's tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple



here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 show; and teach us in her ways to go. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 law in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.  
 save and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>5 O come, thou Key of David, come,<br/>             and open wide our heavenly home;<br/>             make safe the way that leads on high,<br/>             and close the path to misery.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> | <p>6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer<br/>             our spirits by thine advent here;<br/>             disperse the gloomy clouds of night,<br/>             and death's dark shadows put to flight.<br/>             Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel<br/>             shall come to thee, O Israel.</p> |
|--|--|

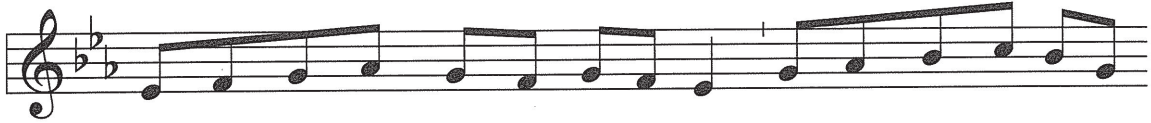
- 7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
 all peoples in one heart and mind;  
 bid envy, strife, and discord cease;  
 fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 shall come to thee, O Israel.

One stanza of this paraphrase of the great O Antiphons may be sung on each of the last days of Advent as follows:

- |                              |                                  |                         |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec. 17: O Wisdom (2)        | Dec. 20: O Key of David (5)      | Dec. 23: O Emmanuel (1) |
| Dec. 18: O Lord of might (3) | Dec. 21: O Dayspring (6)         |                         |
| Dec. 19: O Root of Jesse (4) | Dec. 22: O Desire of Nations (7) |                         |

These titles of the coming Christ appeared in daily Vesper antiphons sung during the week before Christmas; their roots date at least to the reign of Charlemagne. Both text and tune are the fruit of 19th-century efforts to reclaim Christian treasures from pre-Reformation sources.

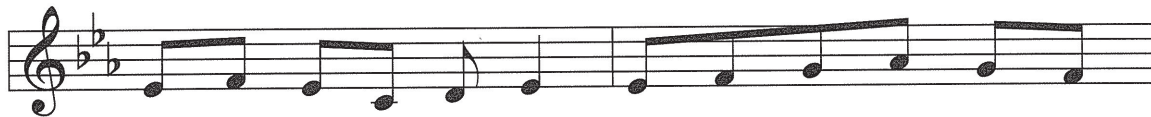
## Of the Father's Love Begotten 108



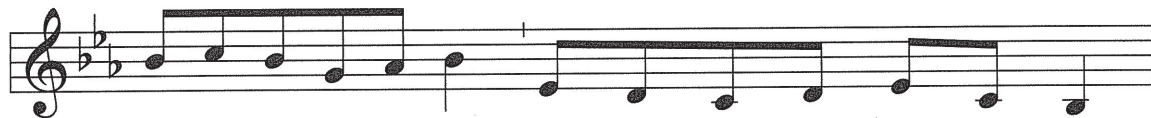
1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan  
 2 By his Word was all cre - at - ed; he com-mand-ed; it  
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full  
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one  
 5 O ye heights of heaven, a - dore him. An - gel hosts, his prais -  
 6 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost,



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the  
 was done: heaven and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni -  
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the  
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised  
 es sing. Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex -  
 to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un -

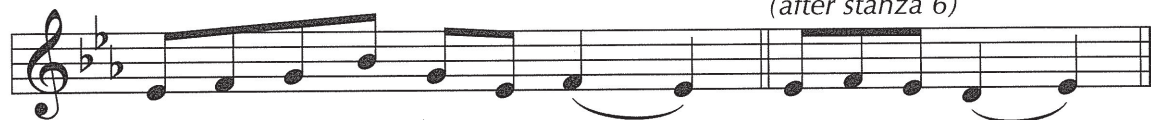


source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 verse of three in one, all that sees the moon's soft  
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -  
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -  
 tol our God and King. Let no tongue on earth be  
 wea - ried prais - es be. Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 shin - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,  
 si - lent; ev - ery voice in con - cert ring,  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry,

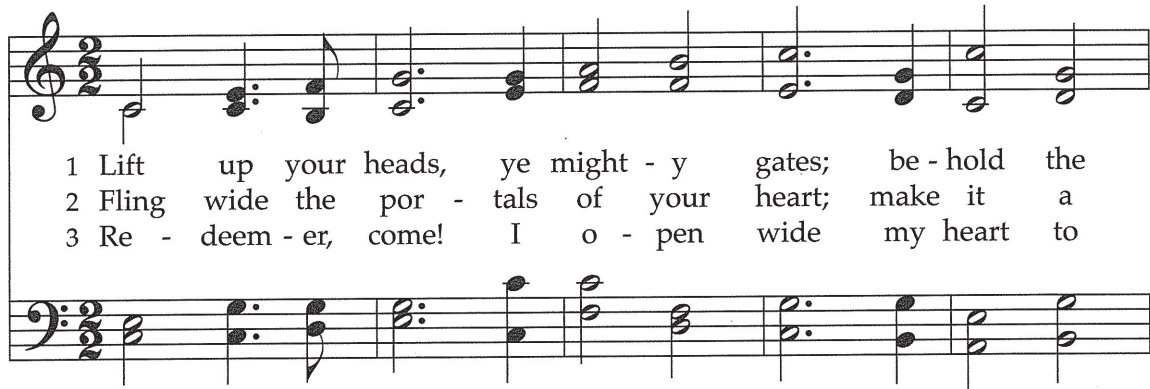
(after stanza 6)



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Seldom has the wonder of the Incarnation been expressed so beautifully as in this text, created in the era when the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds were being codified and mindful of similar theological affirmations. It is set here to a plainchant melody from the late Middle Ages.

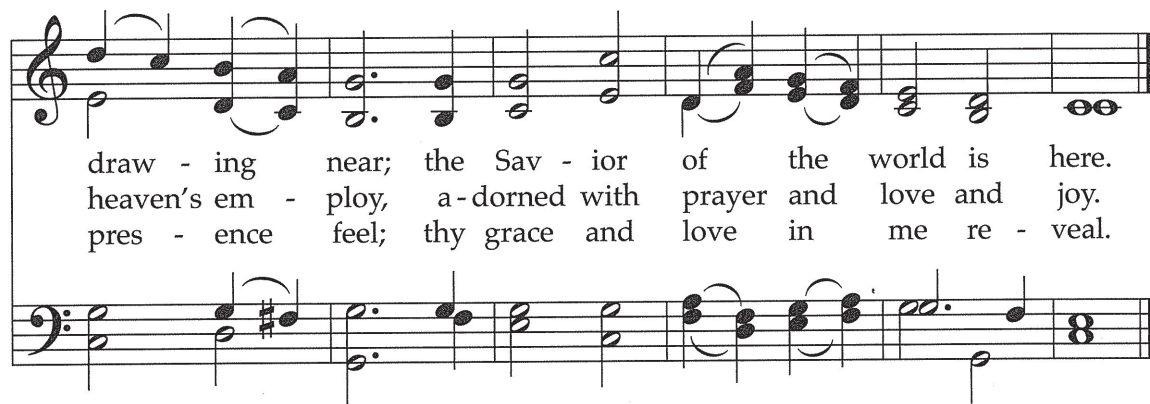
## Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93



1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the  
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a  
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to



King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is  
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for  
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner



draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.  
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

Beginning as a paraphrase of Psalm 24:7-10, this text then applies the door imagery to the singer's heart, and concludes with the individual's welcome of the approaching Savior. It is set to a very effective anonymous 18th-century English tune that has served many texts.