**Worship Bulletin for December 5, 2021**

**Welcome and Announcements ~** Jim Comar

There are still some bags in the vestry with candles and a devotional

for each day of Advent. Please take one home and feel free to bring one to someone who is not here today.

Wednesday ~ Missions Meeting at 2pm in the vestry.

Thursday ~ PRC Meeting at the West’s home at 10 am.

4 pm Prudential Meeting at church, and

Choir Practice at 7 pm in the vestry.

Friday ~ 1 pm decorating cookies and setting up for the sale

Saturday ~ Homemade Christmas Cookie Sale from 10 am – 1 pm.

The Annual Christmas Coffee House is at 7 pm at church.

We look forward to hearing your stories, songs, and memories and enjoying some delicious homemade treats.

The Online Interfaith Holiday Auction benefiting the

Emergency Needs Fund begins on November 29th at 6 pm and goes through December 9th at 6 pm. The website is : [**32auctions.com/interfaith2021**](http://32auctions.com/interfaith2021)**.**

The flowers today are from Barb West in loving memory

of her mother, Miriam Wertman.

**Lighting the Advent Candle for Peace** Cara Davenport

**Song ~ *“When God is a Child”* #132 v. 2**(blue hymnal)



**Call to Worship ~ Selected verses from Psalm 43 (TPT)**

(Please join in reading the bold lines.)

Lord, You are where my strength comes fromand my protector,  
**so why would you leave me now?**Must I be covered with gloom

**while the enemy comes after me, gloating with glee?**Pour into me the brightness of your daybreak!  
**Pour into me your rays of revelation-truth!**Let them comfort and gently lead me onto the shining path,  
**showing the way into your burning presence,**    into your many sanctuaries of holiness.

**Then I will come closer to your very altar**    until I come before you, the God of my ecstatic joy!  
**I will praise you with the harp that plays in my heart**

to you, my God,

**my magnificent God!**Then I will say to my soul,  
**“Don’t be discouraged; don’t be disturbed,  
    for I fully expect my Savior-God to break through for me.**  
    Then I’ll have plenty of reasons to praise him all over again.”  
**Yes, he is my saving grace!**

**Song ~** The Worship Team will lead us in singing

***“He Shall Reign Forevermore”***

*In the bleak mid-winter all creation groans  
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone  
Light is breaking in a stable for a throne*

***Chorus***

***(And) He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore  
Unto us a Child is born  
The King of kings and Lord of lords  
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore***

*If I were a wise man, I would travel far  
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part  
But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart*

***Chorus***

*Here within a manger lies the One  
Who made the starry skies  
This baby born for sacrifice ~Christ the Messiah  
Into our hopes into our fears  
The Savior of the world appears  
The promise of eternal years ~ Christ the Messiah*

***Chorus***

CCLI Song # 7050416 Chris Tomlin | Matt Maher

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**Praying Together ~**

Space for requests ~

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

**Choir Song ~ *“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?”***

**Introducing the Sermon ~** Pastor Rebecca Sommons

**Scripture Text ~ Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)** read by Jim Comar

After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.  
    I am your shield, your very great reward.”

**2**But Abram said,

“Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless

and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?”

**3**And Abram said, “You have given me no children;

so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

**4**Then the word of the Lord came to him:

“This man will not be your heir,

but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.”

**5**He took him outside and said,

“Look up at the sky and count the stars—

if indeed you can count them.”

Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

**6**Abram believed the Lord,

and he credited it to him as righteousness

**Sermon ~** Rev. Rebecca Sommons  **~**

***“Are You Discouraged? Look up at the Stars”***

**Song ~ *“I Wonder as I Wander”*** (#161 in the blue hymnal)

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor ordinary people like you and I  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, ‘twas in a cow’s stall*

*With wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all*

*But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,*

*The promise of ages it then did recall*

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing  
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing  
Or all of God's angels in heaven to sing  
He surely could have had it  
Cause He was the King*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die  
For poor ordinary people like you and I  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky*

Traditional Appalachian Carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1934

**Communion ~** Everyone is welcome to partake of

the bread and juice that remind us

of Jesus’ great sacrificial love for us.

Matt Sommons will be singing ***“This is Love.”***

**Benediction ~** Based on **1 Peter 1:19 (NLT)**

May all we have learned give us even greater confidence

in the message proclaimed by the prophets.

May we continue to pay close attention to what they wrote,

for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—

until the Day dawns,

and Christ the Morning Star shines in our hearts.