

SCRIPTURE

Litany based on Psalm 27

L: The lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear?

C: The Lord is the stronghold of my life: of whom shall I be afraid?

L: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:

C: To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

L: To behold the beauty of the Lord

All: And to inquire in his temple.

L: Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies

C: Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses rise up against me

All: And they are breathing out violence.

L: I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord

C: In the land of the living.

L: Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage;

All: Wait for the Lord!

Luke 2:41-52

SERMON

The courage of a 12-year-old boy
Debra Sapp-Yarwood

HYMN #28 SS

Holy Child within the manger

WE RESPOND AND SHARE

SHARING JOY

We welcome the introduction of guests and visitors during this time. One way we get to know one another is by signing the friendship registers. Once the register reaches the center aisle, please pass it back to the outer aisle.

SHARING CONCERNS

PRAYING TOGETHER

Slips of paper are available in the pew racks for those who wish to offer joys and concerns silently and anonymously. These papers, if put in the offering plate, will be placed in the prayer bowl table at the front of the sanctuary.

OFFERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you did not have time to submit a written announcement, or if something new needs highlighting, please hand your written announcement to the worship leader or pastor before the worship service.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD WITH LOVE

*SENDING FORTH

L: In the days to come, may we, like the angels, sing Hosanna in the highest;

C: May we, like the shepherds, glorify and praise you;

L: .May we, like Mary, treasure all these things,

C: And ponder them in our hearts.

All: Amen.**

*HYMN #209

Oh, how joyfully

*POSTLUDE

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

Unless otherwise indicated, hymns are in the blue *Hymnal: A Worship Book*.

Songs designated "SS" are in the purple *Sing the Story* hymnal.

As we sing, please use language that makes worship most meaningful, enriching and inclusive.

**Jacque B. Jones, from the hymn *God of Creation who slept in the Straw*, ©2017.

The light sculpture at the front of the sanctuary was created by Arlie Regier and his son Paul. We have cherished the long tradition of featuring this gift during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

During recent weeks, the WorshipArts children have been privileged to watch their ideas unfold as resident artist Jesse Graber spontaneously draws the images the children convey as they share their observations and responses to concepts inspired by the morning's worship service (see image at top of bulletin). This year's Advent and Christmas-season bulletin covers are the result of one such collaboration.

In preparation for starting our work on the Christmas program titled "Who Will Come to Bethlehem?", we pondered several questions about who would come to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus. On this Christmas Sunday, we invite you to consider what you might seek at the manger.

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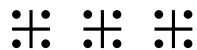
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Merry Christmas! Thank you to everyone who continues to make Rainbow the beautiful place it is. We look forward to another year of seeking the peace of the city alongside all of you as we worship, serve, and learn together.

-Mark, Ben, Terry, Carrie, Rosi, and Ruth