

## **Worship Service Resources - “Stop, Look, and Listen”**

*Guest Preacher Jeanne Rempel*

**31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023 - 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Christmas, Year B,**

**Isaiah 61:10-11 NRSV / Luke 2:22-40 NRSV**

### **Prelude**

played by church musician Annie Center,

**Opening Music** (video) [Stop, Look and Listen](#)

### **Welcome / Announcements**

I'm glad to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church.

#### ***Are there any announcements?***

We seek to welcome all of God's children to join us in bearing witness to the radically transforming power of God's love. As we gather today, let's share the joy and peace of Christ with each other by greeting each other as we pass the peace.

### **Pass the Peace**

Now that you are back in your seats, please stand in body or spirit as you are able and join together in singing the opening hymn

**Opening Hymn      Oh For a Thousand Tongues to Sing 110**

### **Call to Worship - (based on Psalm 148)**

One: Praise the Lord.

**All: Praise the Lord from the heavens  
Praise the Lord in the heights.**

One: Praise God, all heavenly angels; praise God, all heavenly host!  
Praise God, sun and moon; praise God all shining stars.

**All: Praise God, you highest heavens  
And you waters above the heavens!**

**All: *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God commanded and they were created.***

One: God established them forever and ever;  
God fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

**All: Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!**

One: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

**All: Rulers of the earth and all people, princes and all monarchs of the earth!  
Young men and women alike, old and young together!**

**All: *Let them praise the name of the Lord, for God's name alone is exalted;  
God's splendor is above the earth and the heavens.***

**Invocation**      Prayer by pastor Jeanne Rempel

Eternal, almighty, and trustworthy God, draw us to yourself as a mother draws a child to her bosom. Come so close that we know you are listening when we speak, so close that you know we are listening when you speak. Be our hope. Kindle our faith, teach us the way of peace. For Jesus' sake, Amen.

**Old Testament Reading      Isaiah 61:10-11 NRSV**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

**A Time of Prayer**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

**Today we come together as a community to share together our joys and concerns, and lift them to God in prayer.**

**Pastoral Prayer** - Prayer by pastor

Creator of Light, thank you for gathering us to this place of worship in the light of this day. Scatter the darkness from our hearts and minds. May your light comfort the hearts and minds of all who grieve this day... May your light heal the minds and bodies of all who struggle with illness... May your light illumine the hearts and minds of all who serve devotedly in the name of Christ...

Send forth your light of healing and peace into all the world, we pray, in the name of Jesus, the light of the world. Amen.

## Hymn                      For the Beauty of the Earth    89

### New Testament Reading              Luke 2:22-40    NRSV

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

(as it is written in the law of the Lord, ‘Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord’),

and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.’

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him.

It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law,

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

‘Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation,

which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, ‘This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.’

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage,

then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day.

At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

**Message**      ***Stop, Look, and Listen***    *by Guest Preacher Jeanne Rempel*

## **Call to Serve**

As we continue to seek to become a place of compassion and support to our community, we ask that you give prayerful consideration as to how you may support our efforts. If you would like to make a donation, there are envelopes by the collection plate at the entrance. Online donations can be made through our website. Prayers and suggestions are also welcome! Thanks again for all your support, and may we continue to work together to keep being a place of ministry that seeks to promote the growth of God's shalom around us. Today, as we listen to Annie play, let's reflect on how we celebrate our faith, and how we might use our gifts and talents to inspire others to do the same.

**A Time for Reflection**      Played by church musician Annie Center,

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Great God, you are the giver of life and all that is good. Accept our humble gifts and multiply them. Accept our humble hearts and mold them. Accept our humble lives and transform them, that we might live in the power of the resurrection, willing to risk all for your kingdom. In the name of Jesus we offer these gifts, and in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Hymn**                      **Great Is Thy Faithfulness**                      **327**

## **Benediction**

May the love of God be above you in an overarching sky, beneath you in firm good earth, around you in life-giving air. May you be glad and rejoice wherever you go.

**Postlude**                      played by church musician Annie Center,