Note: The Liturgy for this Sunday is from Ministry Matters, The Wesley Study Bible NRSV, the UM Hymnal, The UMC Worship & Music Planner, and Feasting on the Word Advent Companion.

<u>Household Prayer – Evening</u>

Restore me, O God, from the rush of the day. Let me dream this night of all the great things You have done. As the darkness comes and these little lights in my house glow, I give thanks for the Greater Light no darkness can overcome. Bring peace as only You can give. Greeting me in the morning with new possibilities. In Christ. Amen.

Organist/Pianist: Ken Cover Warwood Greeters - Rose Soares, Cheryl Glatzer Short Creek Flutist - Ashley Mazzella Acolyte: Short Creek- Nancy Mazzella/Gonzales Children

Warwood- Needs Filled

Liturgists – Crystal Welsh, Jim Delbrugge, Kevin Butler, Gini Sapp

IT/Audio: James Benner, Kevin Hedrick Pastor Heather Rogers

Warwood website - warwoodumc.org

Short Creek Facebook page – www.facebook.com/shortcreekchurch/

District Website – <u>ndwvumc.org</u>

Conference Website - https://www.wvumc.org

Administrative Assistant: Crystal Welsh Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 9 am to 1 pm Pastor Contact: Rev. Heather Rogers

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Warwood - Short Creek Charge United Methodist Churches

"Making Disciples of Jesus Christ"

3rd Sunday in Advent

December 17, 2023

<u>OT – Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</u> Controlled by the Spirit, the prophet tells of the coming time of the Lord's kindness. The Lord will bring good news: comfort for those who mourn and justice for the oppressed.

<u>Psalter – Psalm 126</u> Captives have returned from exile and join in the celebration. Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.

NT-1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 God wants us to be joyful and to keep praying all the time, giving thanks. The God of peace can be trusted to make us holy.

<u>Gospel – John 1:6-8, 19-28</u> John was baptizing people, and some were curious about who he was. He said that he was not the Messiah but that he was preparing the way for the Lord.

Greeting and Gathering

Prelude "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" arr. Bock

Centering Words

God's faithful live as oaks of righteousness. Let us grow strong and true this Advent season.

The altar rail is open for prayer at all times; come as you are called

*Call to Worship

- L: Love has come down to us this Advent Season.
- P: Divine love which heals and transforms our lives.
- L: With great joy, we receive that love and share it with others.
- P: We open our hearts to all God's children, the last, the least, and the lost, as well as those who feel privileged.
- L: The Lord has done and continues to do great things for us.
- P: Praise be to God who loves us so much and who challenges us to be people of joy in this darkened world. AMEN.

*Opening Prayer

*Hymn "Gather Us In" TFWS# 2236

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Kevin Butler & Gini Sapp

Psalter Reading Psalm 126 UMH# 847 Jim Delbrugge

Children & Teen TimeBarbara Cover

Noisy Offering Collection for World Service (Warwood)

Intercessory & Lord's Prayer – Joys & Concerns

(The Lord's Prayer: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Warwood Choral Anthem

"Ring Out the Bells of Christmas" Laree

<u>Sermon</u>

*Prayer of Illumination

*Scripture Lesson: Psalm 126

L: This has been the Word of God for the people of God.

P: Thanks Be to God.

"The Joy of Going Home"

(Something to ponder this week: God calls his people to patience and perseverance as they work and wait for the future joy. How can you bear witness to the true light (Jesus Christ) that has come into the world?)

Response to the Word

May the testimony of Christ be strengthened among us as we wait for the Lord.

Tithes and Offering

Invitation to the Offering

"The Coventry Carol"

Southbridge

*Doxology

UMH# 95

(Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.)

*Offertory Prayer (In Unison)

Lord, you have blessed our lives in so many ways. Receive these tokens of our blessings and cause them to work in this world that you have loaned to us to make light shine in the darkness and peace an attainable goal in all conflicts. We offer these gifts in Jesus' name. AMEN.

*Hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" UMH# 89

Announcements

Benediction with Blessing and Sending

Postlude "Angels We Have Heard on High" Turner

^{*}Please rise in body or in spirit.

^{**}Please set all cell phones to off, silent or vibrate during services.

^{**}The altar rail is open for prayer at all times; come as you are called.