

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
JANUARY 23, 2022**

PRELUDE “*Piano Sonata in C minor, 2nd mvt.*” By F. Schubert

Nenad Ivovic

GREETING WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Janice Touloukian

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Praise the God of new beginnings, in whose hand the year unfolds.

People: **Praise the God who calls us beloved. Who blesses us with the waters of love and grace.**

All: **Standing at the beginning of a day or a year or a lifetime, we trust the faithfulness of God, whose goodness washes over us in all seasons.**

OPENING HYMN Black Hymnal #303 (Please stand if you are able.)

“Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing”

*Rejoice, give thanks and sing; your Sovereign God adore!
For Christ has robbed death’s sting and triumphs evermore.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Our Savior Jesus reigns, the God of truth and love;
The Lamb who purged our stains is crowned with power above.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say, rejoice.*

*Christ Jesus cannot fail to rule both earth and heaven;
The keys of death and hell are to the Savior given.
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say rejoice.*

*Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ the Judge shall come,
And take the faithful up to their eternal home.
We soon shall hear a heavenly voice above the trumpet’s sound, “Rejoice!”*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (read in unison) (Please be seated.)

O God, Creator of all things, come and be present as we embark together on the journey of this new year. As the past resides, fill us with hope for what will come and courage to trust in your vision of leadership and ministry. Make us faithful in our witness to the goodness that surrounds us and generous in our service to life as your creation. O God, giver of every blessing, create in us a resolve for peace, generosity in love and faithfulness to all the ways your love will lead us in the year to come. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts)

MUSICAL AMEN “Go Tell It On The Mountain” Arr. By Carl J. Nygard, Jr.
Choir, accompanied by Faye Chen

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

During this season where we are deeply conscious of the health and safety of our worshipping community, we will not be passing plates for the offering. Instead, we invite you to place your offering today in one of the plates located by the entrance doors of the church.

We thank you for your generosity and support.

DOXOLOGY Black Hymnal #780

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

OFFERING PRAYER

HYMN Black Hymnal #158 (Please stand if able.)

“O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright”

*O Morning Star, how clear and bright, your beam shines forth in truth and light!
My Sovereign meek and lowly! O Root of Jesse, Promised One, my God and Ruler,
You have won my heart to serve you solely! You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious,
Rich in blessing, rule and might o'er all possessing.*

*Come heavenly Brightness, Light divine, and deep within my heart now shine,
There make yourself an altar! Fill me with joy and strength to be your member;
Joined eternally in love that cannot falter; longing for you does possess me;
Turn and bless me; here in sadness eye and heart long for your gladness.*

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 19 (page 473) Joyce Simpson

Luke 4:14-21 (page 892) Joyce Simpson

SERMON REFLECTION *Dream, Believe and Achieve* Rev. Janice Touloukian

CLOSING HYMN Black Hymnal #594 (Please stand if able.)

“How Beautiful, Our Spacious Skies”

*How beautiful, our spacious skies, our amber waves of grain;
Our purple mountains as they rise above the fruitful plain.
America! America! God’s gracious gifts abound,*

*And more and more we’re grateful for life’s bounty all around.
Indigenous and immigrant, our daughters and our sons;
O may we never rest content till all are truly one.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A sisterhood and brotherhood from sea to shining sea.*

*How beautiful, sincere lament, the wisdom born of tears,
The courage called for to repent the bloodshed through the years.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A nation blessed with none oppressed, true land of liberty.*

*How beautiful, two continents, and islands in the sea
That dream of peace, nonviolence, all people living free.
America! America! God grant that we may be
A hemisphere where people here all live in harmony.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nenad Iovic

Welcoming Reception For Rev. Susan Murtha

On Sunday, February 6th, following the 10:00 a.m. church service, there will be a meet and greet reception in the Parish House to welcome our new Interim Minister, Rev. Susan Murtha. If you are interested in making any finger foods for the reception, please contact either Penny Rogers (203-530-2486) or Sue Stoddard (203-453-1255).

Upcoming Minsters Scheduled

January 30 th – Rev. Raquel Irizarry	March 6 th – Rev. Susan Murtha
February 6 th – Rev. Susan Murtha	March 13 th – Rev. Greg Mobley
February 13 th – Rev. Greg Mobley	March 20 th – Rev. Susan Murtha
February 20 th – Rev. Susan Murtha	March 27 th – Rev. Raquel Irizarry
February 27 th – Glenn Dulko	

If you would like to donate flowers for the church on a particular Sunday, please call the church office at (203)389-2119.

Please sign up in the Parish hall to read Scripture and to host the coffee hour.

We need and appreciate your help!

CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The membership of the First Church of Woodbridge, is hereby called to meeting on **Sunday, January 30, 2022**, in the Parish Hall immediately following the Sunday morning worship service.

In order:

1. To hear the Treasurer's Annual Financial Report for 2021
2. To adopt the 2022 Final Annual Budget
3. To elect:
 - a. Treasurer
 - b. Members of the Board of Stewardship
 - c. Members of the Nominating Committee
4. To hear and approve any other plans advanced by the Church Council

Respectfully Submitted,
January 16, 2022

Susan Stoddard
Clerk

