



*"From the Three" by Hannah Garrity  
(Inspired by Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)*

**December 8, 2024**  
**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Ministers**  
**Pastor**  
**Provisional Pastor**  
**Director of Faith Formation Ministries**  
**Director of Music**  
**Organist/Accompanist**  
**Director of Preschool**  
**Maintenance Superintendent**  
**Administrator/Recording Treasurer**

**All the People of Covenant**  
**Dr. Kyle Allen**  
**Rev. Rachel H. Vogado**  
**Jewel Aagaard**  
**Richard Rudolph**  
**Ronn Lowe**  
**Anne Craig**  
**Mark Overacker**  
**Gail Schuler**

**1831 Deyerle Road SW, Roanoke, VA 24018**  
**540-989-3314 • [office@covroanoke.org](mailto:office@covroanoke.org)**  
**[covenantroanoke.org](http://covenantroanoke.org)**

# Loving God, Loving People, Making Disciples

## Gathering

*\*Please stand as you are able*

### \*Chiming of the Hour and Presentation of the Word

**Prelude** "Carol of the Advent (People Look East)"  
Rebecca Groom te Velde

**Welcome and Covenant Life** Dr. Kyle Allen

*During our morning announcements,  
please take time to pass and sign the friendship pads.*

### Joys and Concerns of the Church Family

**Introit** "Sing Noel: A Christmas Fanfare"  
arr. Jay Althouse

### \*Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace and Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>

One: In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again?  
Where do we start?

**All: Let us begin together!**

One: Let us begin arm in arm.

**All: Let us begin by holding each other up,  
instead of tearing each other down.**

One: Let us begin with words of peace.  
Today, we light the candles of hope and peace  
to remind us of what could be.

**All: May these lights mark a new beginning.  
May peace flow like a river, and may it start with us.  
May this be our new beginning.  
Arm in arm, hand in hand, side by side, may we begin again!  
Together, let us worship the Lord!**

**\*Hymn of Praise, #87** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

*You are invited to come forward with your monthly  
Hunger Offering during the singing of this hymn*

### Call to Confession

**Prayer of Confession** (*unison prayer*)

**Holy God, your share with us an everlasting truth, that we are not alone,  
that you are with us, that we are held in grace. But the days are long and  
we are forgetful. Too often we forget to trust in this good news. We have  
tried to make our own way, to do things on our own, to kindle our own  
faiths.**

**Forgive us for forgetting your good news. Forgive us for thinking we are  
better on our own, rather than in community with others.**

**We believe. Help our unbelief. Amen.**

### Declaration of Forgiveness

**Response, Hymn #88** (verse 2) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

*Children are invited to come forward as we sing.*

**Time with Our Children** Jewel Aagaard, Director of Faith Formation

**\*Passing of the Peace** (*Greet one another, "Peace be with you."*)

*Children ages 4 – 11 may leave for Children's Worship  
and will return during the last hymn.*

Hymn of Preparation, #105 (verses 1, 3)

"People, Look East"

## Teaching

Prayer for Illumination

Meg Munton

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:39-56 (Pew Bible, NT p. 49)

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Singing Together"

Rev. Rachel H. Vogado

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (from a *Brief Statement of Faith*)

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.**

Anthem

*Navidad de Puerto Rico*

"Song of the Wise Men"

"At the Hour of Midnight"

arr. Ray Zubler

## Nurturing

Celebration of Giving+

Offertory

Meditation on "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

John Barr

**\*Doxology, #110** (verse 3)

"Love Has Come"

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession with the Lord's Prayer**

## Reaching

**\*Hymn of Devotion, #100**

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

**\*Charge and Benediction**

**Congregational Meeting**

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**Music Notes from Ronn Lowe:** The prelude today is a truly amazing composition of music on "People Look East!" The hands have a constant carillon effect throughout while hints of the hymn appear. You will hear the melody in the pedal first; it quiets down in the middle and then a joyous full ending with just a hint of "How Brightly Shines the Morning Star."

The anthems today are also amazing arrangements by our very own Ray Zubler! With a Puerto Rican flavor, these are dance-like, with a bit of Madrigal! Fun to play and fun to sing as we rejoice in this beautiful season of Advent.

**Welcome!** We are blessed to have you join our worship today, and we hope to keep seeing you! More information about Covenant is available on our website at [covenantroanoke.org](http://covenantroanoke.org). You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter. We would love to get to know you better, and a card is available in the pew before you to begin this journey together.

**Greetings, Parents!** Children are always welcome in our worship services. If you so choose, a professionally staffed nursery is available for children ages 3 and younger. Please ask an usher for assistance. **We also have a Parents Room** just outside the Sanctuary, with a changing table and rocking chairs.

**Children's bulletins and activity bags are available** on the table in Heritage Hall. **We offer Children's Worship** during the second half of the service for children ages 4 to 11.

**You are invited to share your Joys and Concerns by writing them in the book on the stand outside the sanctuary.** These will be included in the Prayers of the People during our worship service. (If you have a concern of a personal nature, please speak with the pastor or contact the office.)

**We are grateful to our own Ray Zubler for his wonderful gift in music.**

**Join us for Mingle and Munch!** After worship, all are welcome to gather in Heritage Hall (the entrance area) to visit with church members and guests while enjoying light refreshments. Special thanks to Jewel Aagaard and our Young Families group for hosting this morning!

***The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by  
Rick and Mary Glenn Aydlett to the glory of God and  
in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary  
on December 7th. Congratulations!***

**Elder of the Month:** Meg Munton  
**Deacon of the Month:** Scott Ramsburg  
**Assistant Deacon of the Month:** Sherry Moran



**In Our Prayers ...**

**Congregation:** Audrey Bashlor, Christine Beck, Mary Jane Fisher, Dick Frahm, Lynnmarie Hancock, Jay Hylton, Jerry Lawson, Lindsey Nanz, Ann Cecil Renick, Carol Ryan, June and Forrest Smith, Jo Wilson, caregivers, military service members and families

**Family & Friends:** Greg Adcox, Rob Ahlers, Lowell Bashlor, Jr., Kenneth Benner, Andrew Craig, Jackie Rose, Mike Cummings, Patrick Dooley, Maria Dreiling, Cesia Enriquez, Heather Ford, Jim Haugen, Jo Jones, Pauline Mudrick, Cordell Parvin, Kathy Roberts, Brittany Sexton, Bob & Betty Sizemore, Ezra Schuyler Soto, Joe Wallace, Daniel Woodbury, Religious violence against Christians in northeast India, Mission co-workers Tyler & Rochelle Holm and the people of Malawi, Jim McGill (Niger)

Cover Image: "From the Three" by Hannah Garrity (A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org)

1-Portions of today's service are adapted from The Reverend Sarah R. Speed, sanctifiedart.org

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