



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

December 12, 2021

The Third Sunday in Advent: Joy

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Savior of the Nations, Come (Hymn 14)

arr. Vetter

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Art Charlton

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing praise, and shout for joy:

For God is great, and God is here!

The Lord, our God, is in our midst.

For God is great, and God is here!

May we have eyes to see and ears to hear as we watch and prepare for the coming of God-with-Us!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Sarah Moki

Let us light the Advent candles of hope, peace, joy.

The simple beauty in these candles reminds us of the joy we have in Christ.

Jesus, the Light of the World, shines for us.

God of promise, flow into the desert of our hearts and renew us with Your joy. God of Hope and Peace, flood our darkness with Your light. Let us rejoice! Emmanuel comes!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

Shall come to thee, O Israel!

WE PREPARE TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF PRAISE

God of Joy and Justice, we will always rejoice in you. You are our strength and our song. You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side. You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and draw close to those who walk alone. Through your great love, you transform us into more than we ever thought we could be. We will trust in you and not be afraid. With joy, we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power to those near and far. Receive our prayers and praise this day, for you alone are worthy, God most holy.

*HYMN 2, V.1-2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

All knowing God, we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it out in lesser ways. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires. In search of love, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honorable, just, and pleasing in your sight.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today. In joy, receive it gladly.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE (HYMN 31, V.1)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

RESPONSIVE READING

Isaiah 12:1-6

In that day you will say: "I will praise you, O Lord.
Although you were angry with me, your anger has turned away and you have comforted me."

**Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.**

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
In that day you will say: "Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted."

**Surely God is our salvation; we will trust and not be afraid.
The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.**

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things;
Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you!

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 3:10-16

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

Soon and Very Soon

Andraé Crouch

Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King,
Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.

No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more crying there,
We are going to see the King.

No more crying there,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.
Hallelujah.

No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King.
No more dying there,
We are going to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
We are going to see the King.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We make our offering today with joyful hearts, trusting that the Holy One who comes to us will bless our gifts and our lives, to make us signs of joy in the world God loves.

Please leave your offering in the plate in the back of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will never fit that need. We offer our gifts in joy that you will bless them and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all.

Amen.

*HYMN 5 (V.1-4)

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of Light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph;
Cherubim, with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry,
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN 40 (V.1-4)

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His Love.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us (Hymn 17)

arr. Walther

*The table flowers are for the Glory of God and in loving memory of Walter J. Smith,
December 12, 1911 - October 24, 1979, by his daughter Gloria.*

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Linda Martin, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Kimberly Rausch, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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Luke 3:10-16

“What should we do then?” the crowd asked. John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely – be content with your pay.”

The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come; the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”