



December 15, 2024

Third Sunday in Advent

GATHERING IN THE LORD'S PRESENCE

Boldface = All speak

❖ = All who are able, please stand.

PRELUDE ... "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *13th century Plainsong, Arr. by Jim Lucas*
"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" *American Folk Song, Arr. by Jim Lucas*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT....."Prepare the Way of the Lord"
(One License song #00142. Text & Tune: Taizé Community, Jacques Berthier © 1984, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc.)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING..... The Cory family
Reader: As we wait for Jesus, these verses from Psalm 33 remind us to be joyful.

Congregation: Sing a new song to the Lord! Play well, and shout with joy! For everything God does is good. God's kind love fills the world. God's word made the heavens, and God's breath made the stars. God gathers the seas up in heaps and stores the deep in jars. Let everyone who lives on earth stand in awe of God, for God spoke, and there it was: at God's command, it stood.

Reader: We light the candles of Hope and Peace, and today the candle of Joy to show us the way.

Congregation: And as a reminder that God is with us today.

Reader: Let us pray. God of joy, help us remember to share joy as we wait for Jesus. Amen.

❖**HYMN** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" verses 1 & 2..... **#611**
(CCLI Song #25321. Edward Hodges, Henry Van Dyke, Ludwig van Beethoven © Words & Music: Public Domain.)

❖**CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER**

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great

joy that you have prepared. (a time for silent confession) **Merciful God, tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

❖ **ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

❖ **AFFIRMING THE PEACE AMONG US**

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

The children may go back to Sunday School at this time.

❖ **GLORIA PATRI**Henry W. Greatorex (*Public Domain*).....**#581**

HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you want us to hear so that we may be who you created us to be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

1st SCRIPTURE Isaiah 12:2-6, pg. 990
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

CHORAL ANTHEM....."You Are the Reason"
(Words and music by Ruth Elaine Schram)

2nd SCRIPTURE Luke 3:7-18, pg. 1462
Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. Thanks be to God.

MESSAGEThe Rev. Sara K. Snowden

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

❖ **HYMN** "In the Bleak Midwinter" **#144**
(CCLI Song #294736. Christina Georgina Rossetti, Gustav Theodore Holst. Words & Music: Public Domain.)

❖ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(The Confession of 1967)*

Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus. His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God. He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel, the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity. He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(p. 35 in the hymnal)*

OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

DOXOLOGY Genevan Psalter *(Public Domain)*..... **#606**

GOING FORTH TO SERVE

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT & SERVE

❖ **HYMN** "Joy to the World" **#134**
(CCLI Song #24016. George Frideric Handel / Isaac Watts © Words & Music: Public Domain.)

❖ **SENDING FORTH**

POSTLUDE..... "Rejoice and Be Merry"
Traditional English, Arr. by Michael Scott

Pastor: The Rev. Sara K. Snowden

Lector: Karen Maurer

Greeter/Usher: Darly Doyle

Worship Pianist: Amy Dickman

In gratitude for John Wurster and the Presbyterian Outlook for inspiring portions of today's worship service. The candle lighting is based on Advent at Home Candle Lighting, a resource from the Around the Table initiative in the PC(USA).