

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. We extend a warm greeting of Christian Fellowship to you.

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude *Carol of the Bells* Leontovich
Cindy Humphreys, Peggy Knutson, and Deanna Patton

The Call to Worship & The Lighting of the Advent Wreath – the Candle of Joy
Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God.

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

We celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby and we wait for Jesus to come again.

We light this candle of hope - the hope of our Savior, Jesus.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

We light this candle of peace – the peace that Jesus, our Savior, brings to the world.

He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We light this candle of joy – the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

Hear God’s promise of joy...God is faithful to his promises.

Thanks be to God! We praise God for the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

Let us pray... Come, Lord Jesus, our light, and our salvation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*The Hymn *Angels We Have Heard On High* 23

*The Call to Confession

The Psalmist prayed for God’s mercy, trusting that God would blot out all his sins, according to God’s unfailing love and great compassion. In the same manner, let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness.

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, when we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us. When we reduce Christmas to shopping and decorations, have mercy on us. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing and hearing the suffering around, fill us with your love. When our caring does not lead to action, move us to the work of compassion and justice. We confess our sinfulness. [Silent confession.] Lord, restore to us the joy of our salvation and renew a steadfast spirit within us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Through Jesus Christ, forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you. In Christ, we have redemption through his blood and the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of his grace. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Response *Angels We Have Heard on High*, chorus 23
“Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo; Glo . . . ria, in excelsis Deo”

*The Passing of the Peace

The Anthem *He Is Born!* Hakes
JuBELLation Choir

The Word of God

The Time with the Children

The Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-56 page 77 NT

The Sermon Pastor Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith The Apostles’ Creed (traditional) hymnal page 14

*The Hymn *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* 28

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

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 sins as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory *Tidings of Joy!* Larson
Chancel Choir

*The Doxology *Angels, from the Realms of Glory, verse 4* 22

All creation, join in praising, God the Father, Spirit, Son. Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn *Joy to the World!* 40

*The Charge and Benediction

*The Congregational Response *Away in a Manger (verse 3)* 24

***Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.***

*Postlude *Joy to the World* arr. Doran

* Congregation Standing – for those who are able.

Liturgist and Advent Wreath Lighters: Barbara Easton & Kitty Myers

Ushers: Pete & Ginny Brucker

Greeter: Betty Miller

Fellowship Hour Hosts: Sandy Rease & Ruth Estell

Musical Talent: Laurel Taipale and the above-mentioned individuals and groups.

For The Hearing Impaired

The service audio is being broadcast on 96.7-FM throughout the building and parking lot. Feel free to bring your pocket size radio, with headphones or earbuds and listen at an audio level that is more comfortable for you.

Second Presbyterian Church

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Phone: (989) 792-1023

December 17, 2023



THIRD SUNDAY OF
A D V E N T

Joy

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Seeking and Serving Christ. We are a Place for Growing Christians.

Luke 1:39-56 New International Version

³⁹ At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! ⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶ And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.