

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 11, 2022

Sunday of Joyful Anticipation

THEME: Visioning a Renewed Nation and World



“The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me to bring good news. . . to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Isaiah 61:1

GATHERING

Prelude: “What Child Is This?” Jason Payne

Greeting and Welcome to Worship

Call to Worship Psalm 122

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

People: Now we are here, standing inside the gates of praise! In the presence of God with our gifts of thanksgiving!

Leader: Those who gather do it to please our God who desires it.

People: We come to make ready for the Lord’s coming. We come in hope, praying for peace, looking for joy.

Leader: We pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and for peace within our nation, and peace for the world.

People: We will be vigilant and ready, for the gift is about to come. It will be a joyous gift. Praise be to God for such lavish love!

*Hymn: #82 “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” (see download)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lighting the Advent Candles – The Joy Candle

Leader: Holy God, God of jubilation—as we gather this morning, we are often enough distracted without joy. Grant us focus.

People: In ways we are worried, grant us peace.

Leader: In ways our lives are cluttered, grant us space.

People: In ways our minds are racing, slow us down.

Leader: In ways our hands are clinging to so many things, loosen our grasp.

People: May we release the many things of this world as we seek the one thing—the eternal joy of your kingdom.

Leader: In a world where so many are sorrowful, God lights a candle of joy in our hearts.

People: We wait together for a Saviour, who will be Immanuel, Christ the Lord.

Leader: Hear the word of the Lord: “The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him.” Romans 15:12

People: Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning!

Psalm 30:5

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of Compassion, You watch our ways and weave out of terrible happenings wonders too good and gracious to predict. We pray You will continue to surround especially those who have experienced tragedy with a strong sense of Your present love and hold them in faith. Strengthen those lost in grief. May they find comfort and peace. To every distressed soul, grant mercy, relief, and refreshment, so they may continue on their way. We pray for those who harm us as well as those we’ve harmed. In Your generous Spirit right our wrongs, heal our wounds, restore us in peace. Help us to use the good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, of compassion and sharing that You have given us, so that we may serve in the world as agents of reconciliation, through Christ Jesus, who teaches us to pray, “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 exile, for thine is the power and the glory, forever, AMEN

PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD

Anthem: “People, Look East” L.Lamb
Bell Choir

Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sermon: “Garlands, Gladness, and Giant Oaks”

#99 “My Soul Gives Glory to My God” (see download)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of timeless grace, you fill us with joyful expectation. As we offer our gifts, make us ready for the message that prepares the way, that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. AMEN

Announcements and Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #106: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" (see download)

Charge to the People 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Leader: Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

People: Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

Leader: May the God of peace sanctify us entirely; and may our spirits—soul and body—be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: The One who calls us is faithful and will do this. AMEN

Silent Prayer (be seated)

Postlude: "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night" Lyndell Leatherman

The End of Worship
The Beginning of Service

*Those who wish may stand

Rev. James Shuler, Interim Pastor
Mrs. Dianne Yuninger, Organist/Choir Director

Prayers of the Congregation

Prayer Family this week: Danielle, Kyle & Jayde Short

The Sanctuary Flowers are in Loving Memory of our father,
Warren H. Brackbill
Given by Jim & Sue Brackbill

Leacock Presbyterian Church

*First met in Leacock Township in 1724, recognized by the Synod in
1740, moved to Paradise in 1840.*



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