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COF Worship, December 13, 2020, 10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent—Joy

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candles

L: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised
The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

P: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 164). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray: **Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

(moment of silence) Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 178). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

O God, Hear us now as we pray together the prayer that Christ taught us: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Song: *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold the king of glory waits

The king of kings is drawing near; the savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here Lord abide.

Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

Prayer for Illumination Gracious God, we rejoice in you because you bring good news to us through your word. May we be moved by your word to help you bring good news to the poor and release to the captives. Amen.

Scripture | Thessalonians 5:16-24

⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Hymn *Joy to the World!*

*Joy to the world the lord has 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 sings 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 sin 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.*

Scripture John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon *Love in a Time of Uncertainty*

Affirmation of Faith *From The Westminster Confession of Faith (c.1647)*

It pleased God, in his eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and [humans], the prophet, priest, and king; the head and Savior of his Church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did, from all eternity, give a people to be his seed, and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.

The Son of God, the second Person in the Trinity, being very and eternal God, of one substance, and equal with the Father, did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him

man's nature, with all the essential properties and common infirmities thereof; yet without sin: being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the Virgin Mary, of her substance...

Special Music

Offering Prayer *Thank you to all who continue to give!*

Let us pray: We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, each one of us with our whole heart, and also with the whole heart of this community of faith. For the gifts you have given to us we will glorify your name forever. Accept our offering today, of heart, of love, of time, talents and financial resources and lead us to use them with care and boldness, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Invitation to the Table

L: Hallelujah! The Lord our God the Almighty reigns! Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come.

P: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 170). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, O Lord our God, creator and ruler of the universe...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts (2x)

The whole world is full of God's glory (3x)

Holy is the Lord!

You are holy, O God of majesty...that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 387). Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer after Communion

Gracious and abundant God, even as we wait for the fulfillment of your creation, you meet us in Christ at this table, in this meal. We thank you for feeding us with the bread of life and quenching our thirst with the cup of salvation. Now send us out into the world by the power of your Holy Spirit to share your life and salvation with all whom we meet. Amen. Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 174).

Presbyterian Publishing. Kindle Edition.

Song: *Shalom, Chaverim (Farewell Good Friends)*

Farewell good friends, farewell, good friends, shalom, shalom!

Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom. (repeat)

Charge and Benediction