

Worship at Glendale Presbyterian Church

December 16, 2018

Advent 3C

We Gather

Welcome

Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful

GPC Orchestra

Advent Candle Lighting

Love's Pure Light

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Hope for God's Joy

Responsive Litany

In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We count our blessings, and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.

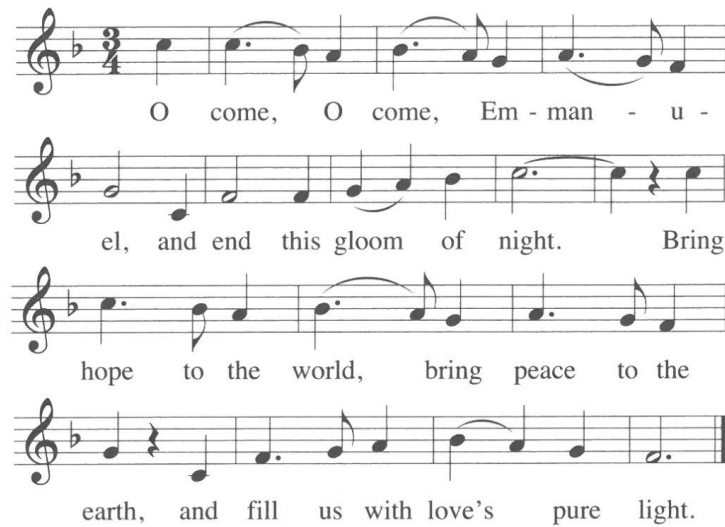
Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Candle Lighting

This morning we light three candles, the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people." We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

"Gesù Bambino"
Music: Pietro Yon

Words and Arranged by
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+Prayer of the Day

God of Joy,
we rejoice in your holy name
and eagerly anticipate your incarnation among us.
So we will shout aloud and sing for joy
for you are in our midst! **Amen.**

+Hymn 105

People, Look East

Unison Prayer of Confession

Although God is the source of our joy,
our sin often hinders our joy and the joy of others.
Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Gracious God,

it was with joy that you brought us into being.

You created the world and called it good.

And yet we have done so much to quell that goodness:

**we have fought with one another and failed to live in peace;
we have shut out the stranger and disparaged the immigrant;
we have ignored the needy and judged the poor;
we have fallen short of your command to be the Beloved Community.
Forgive us, Merciful God, and bring us back to the joy we find in you.
This we pray in your holy name. Amen.**

Assurance

The prophet Zephaniah reminds us of these truths:

that God rejoices over us with gladness,

that God renews us in love,

and that God will exult over us with loud singing.

Friends, I announce to you, in the name of Jesus Christ:

Our sins are forgiven.

Alleluia! Amen.

The Peace of Christ (responsive)

Friends, our God desires us to live lives of peace

and, because we have been forgiven,

we can now live such lives with the help of God.

Alleluia! Amen.

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

All who come to this sanctuary are welcome companions on this day.

Please turn to those nearest you and greet them with words of peace.

+Gathering Song 113 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Sharing the Story

First Scripture Reading

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

14 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing 18 as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. 19 I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem
Mary

Mary,

Children's Choir and Youth Trio

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Liz Rolf Kanerva

+Hymn 97

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Prayers of the People

Let us offer our prayers of intercession to God, saying,

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

Lord of Life, you call us to prepare the way for your reign by bearing fruit worthy of repentance. You lift up a vision before us of a world that is shared and fair, where needs are met and no one is outcast. Baptize us fresh in your Spirit as we pray,

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

We pray for the nations of the world, both allies and enemies, for their leaders and their people. Make yourself known to us all, that all the peoples of the earth may live in justice and peace.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For your church here and abroad, that we hear your call for justice as good news for all people.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

We pray for peace in our world, especially for those caught in war, and for all who live in fear of violence, extortion, threats, and false accusations.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who suffer from natural disasters, from hunger and cold. Lead us to share our food and our coats with them.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the frail, the sick, and all those whose hands grow weak, lead us to help them with gentleness.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For those who are disabled, oppressed, or outcast among us, change their pain into praise, and let their courage be renowned in the world.

God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

For the earth from which we draw our health, our strength, our inspiration, and for all the living creatures in whose community we live— God, you are in our midst, **renew us in your love.**

Surely, God, we can trust in you and not be afraid. Lead us in songs of praise and shouts of joy, for you are in our midst. We pray through the one who baptizes us not only with water but with the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Choral Prayer Response

Little Babe of Bethlehem
Hughes

Offering

Invitation

The four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church. This congregation, every year, has generously supported the four special offerings of our denomination. Last year in 2017, the congregation donated to One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offerings, and the Peace and Global Offerings a total of \$401. However, I want you all to know, that this year, the congregation more than tripled that amount by collecting \$1540 for just these three offerings. GPC has certainly been a witness to Christ's love. Thank you for supporting the work and ministry of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Now in the season of Advent the Christmas Joy Offering is a way for us to offer a gift in response to the celebration of Christ's coming. Please take time to read the Joy Offering bulletin insert today in preparation for next Sunday's offering. Christmas Joy envelopes will be in your worship bulletin.

Let us bring to God our offerings, with thanksgiving that God provides more than enough for all. Let us give, as each is able, for the benefit of Christ's church and God's world.

Offertory Anthem

Carol of the Little Angel
Besig
Chancel Choir
Martha Keeley, flute

*Doxology 84 (verse 4)

Creator of the Stars of Night

*To God the Father, God the Son,
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
praise, honor, might, and glory be
from age to age eternally. Amen.*

+Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, in gratitude for all that you have given us, we bring our tithes, offerings, and labor to help feed a world hungry for healing and hope; for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Sending

+Hymn 102

Savior of the Nations, Come

+Blessing and Charge

+Congregational Response 127 (refrain)

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light.
Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
O, shine all around us by day and by night.
Jesus, the light of the world.*

Postlude
Wenceslas

Good King

Traditional Carol, arr. Schaum