



CHRIST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WELCOME TO THE WORSHIP OF GOD

DECEMBER 11, 2022

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Song: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

† Call to Worship (Isaiah 12:2,4-6)

Pastor: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.

People: **The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation.**

Pastor: Give thanks to the Lord; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

People: **Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world.**

Unison: **Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.**

†Hymn: Love Has Come

† Invocation and the Lord's Prayer

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

The Shepherds' Candle
Stephen and Caroline Milam

First Scripture Readings

Galatians 3:6-14, 26-29 Responsive

⁶So also Abraham “believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁷**Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham.** ⁸Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: **“All nations will be blessed through you.”**⁹**So those who rely on faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**

¹⁰For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.” ¹¹Clearly no one who relies on the law is justified before God, because “the righteous will live by faith.”

¹²**The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, it says, “The person who does these things will live by them.”** ¹³**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.”**

¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

²⁶**So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith,** ²⁷**for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.**

²⁸There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Romans 15:4-16 Responsive

⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵**May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,** ⁶**so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God’s truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

**“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name.”**

¹⁰Again, it says,

“Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people.”

¹¹ And again,

**“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him.”**

¹²And again, Isaiah says,

“The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope.”

¹³ **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

† Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.

† Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory:

Pianist Ellen Van Noord

† Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Second Scripture Readings

Romans 11:11-21 Responsive

¹¹Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

¹²But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

¹³I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

¹⁵For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches.

If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith.

Do not be arrogant, but tremble. ²¹For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

Matthew 1:18-25 Responsive

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

²⁰But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). (Continued)

²⁴When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Sermon: Good News for the Nations
Dr. James N. McGuire

Pastoral Prayer

† Hymn: Silent Night, Holy Night

Responsive Litany (Romans 15:8-10,12,13)

Pastor: For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:

People: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name.

Pastor: Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

People: And again, Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

Unison: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

† Benediction

Welcome, Announcements, and Prayers

Announcements of Interest

Angel Tree, A Ministry of Prison Fellowship

We are still in need of giving people to select one or more children for a gift given in the name of the incarcerated parent.

Below is the link to get to the Angel Tree children for 2022. For a “live” link, go to the church website and click on it there. When it opens up you will get a **welcome to virtual Angel Tree**. The 2022 link to all virtual children in United States is:

<https://vat.angeltreetool.org/60b37164-3824-4656-b1da-bf774cdf352e/children>

Since we cannot put a live link in a bulletin, Alternatively, you may copy the link and put it in your browser. It should take you where you need to go. Then you will see 2 small boxes pop up. Click the box on **left** to continue. Then you can select your **state** and **gender** of the child. The cost will be \$25, using a credit card. Thank you for volunteering.

Plan Ahead

Yes, we will have a **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** on Saturday, December 24 at 4 pm. Invite your friends and family to join you for this service of scripture and song ending with a circle of candles and “Silent Night.”

Return on Sunday Morning to rejoice again that God sent his Son to be our Savior.

Offering Envelopes for 2023

You may pick up your offering envelopes just inside Fellowship Hall. They are arranged alphabetically.

To our visitors: We hope our worship enables you to draw near to God through Christ Jesus, and that you feel welcome here among us. Please sign our guest book in the narthex.

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

In Need of Prayer

Elain Clay, full recovery from stroke
Brenda's brother, Bernard, kidney failure
Brenda, multiple health problems
Care of Bunny Rector, new residence
Brenda Cook, blood pressure, kidney poor
Jen Freese's uncle Skip, training Sasha
Janet Young, assisted living
Alberta Weaver, home
Reginia Higgs as caregiver to Alberta
Ed Steele for mobility, back pain
Scott, son of Jim and Patty MacKenzie
Richard, son of Pat Grad, blood concern

For those who grieve:

Bunny Rector, husband
Kelly Rende, wife
Ellen Dorman, husband
Sam Hutson, wife
Linda Szczepanek, multiple deaths in family
Engebretsons, daughter, sister
Hartigs, son
Teresa Lisowski, mother
Electrica Woods, sister
Bill Sackett, grief for Marylyn
Donna Whiting, and sister's family

In Need of Prayer

Ray Boone, chemotherapy
Benita Puzzuoli, health, for diagnosis and treatment
Joanna, niece of Lucy McGuire, young mom, cancer
John Engebretson, son of Jack and Senie
Darlene Little, heart problems, dialysis
Felicia, breast cancer, relative of Sean Murphy
Chris, stage 4 cancer, neighbor of Linda Szczepanek
Dan, friend of Linda Szczepanek
Linda Johnson's mother, advanced dementia
Sue Isles, relative of Ron & Karen, recurrent cancer/chemo
Domingo, needs transplants, LaShell, cancer.
Emily, friend of Isles, salvation, employment
Rachel Hobson, deliverance from worldly ways (Sean)
Krystal Murphy, co-worker, Ken for back surgery
Krystal's cousin, heart valve surgery
Don Rende's brother, Bob, failing health
Ellen, friend of Sue Work, lost home in Fl. Hurricane
Karen, friend of Judy Carr, aggressive cancer
Debra, grieving husband Larry's death
Lori, Kent Puzzoli's sister, recurrence of cancer/surgery
Sue Work's neighbor, panic attacks
Debbie, Pam Paglino's friend, cancer returned
Scott, second back surgery, much pain
Bev's dear friend, Peg, very bad heart, procedure 12/13

General Fund giving last week: \$4,440

Giving to date in December: \$4,440

For an archive of Pastor McGuire's sermons: go to the church website:

<http://www.Christ-PresbyterianChurch.org>

On the left of the main page, beneath "Home," click audio

Heidelberg Catechism Q. 90. What is the Coming-to-Life of the new self?

A. It is whole-hearted joy in God through Christ and a delight to do every kind of good God wants us to do.