



Community Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent
17 December 2023

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Mary Did You Know?

*Call to Worship

(One) This is the season of holy waiting.

(All) We wait for the One who was incarnate. God in human flesh. He redeems us through water and spirit.

(One) We watch for the day when He will break through the clouds and gather those who truly believe in Him.

(All) Until he returns, we will wait in hope and live in His light.

(One) Come let us walk in the light of God!

Opening Prayer

Third Candle of Advent: Joy

(One) Watch and wait for Christ's coming!

(All) We light candles of hope, peace, and joy, remembering God's promises in prayer.

Lighting of the Hope, Peace, and Joy Candles

(One) God of Joy, out of despair you plant seeds of joy. Cultivate those seeds in us, so that we may be reminded of the dawning of Christ's advent among us. May you delight in our joy this season.

(All) God of hope, God of peace, God of joy—into our darkness come. May your Spirit comfort us today as we wait.

*Hymn (154)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(1) O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel!

(2) O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go. *Refrain*

(3) O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*

(4) O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

(5) O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode. *Refrain*

Responsive Psalm

Psalm 126

(One) When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we
were like those who dream.

**(All) Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our
tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the
nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

(One) The LORD has done great things for us, and we
rejoiced.

**(All) Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the
watercourses in the Negeb. May those who sow in
tears reap with shouts of joy.**

(One) Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for
sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their
sheaves.

***Hymn (180)**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(1) O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

(2) For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep

their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

(3) How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.

(4) O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Prayer of Confession

(All) Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this
world. We confess that we live as though the light had
never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the
Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've
kept the birth of your Son confined to a season. Forgive
us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His
return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can
illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Assure us of
our pardon that we may find rest in you. Amen.

Silence

Assurance of Pardon

PROCLAMATION

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel Reading

Luke 1:46b-55

Sermon

***Hymn (173)** *Magnificat (My Soul Magnifies the Lord)*

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea Dominum

Magnificat, magnificat, magnificat anima mea .

RESPONSE

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. **I believe** in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead. **I believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory

Go Tell It On The Mountain

***Doxology & Prayer of Dedication**

Passing of the Peace

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (sins/trespass)

SENDING

Charge

Benediction

Postlude

Let There Be Peace On Earth

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Games Up Here

Join us for "**Games up here**" on **Monday, December 18th** in Darley Hall at 7:00pm.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join us this **Wednesday, December 20th at 5:00pm** online and in Darley Hall as we explore the sixth chapter of *On the Brink of Everything*.

Pastor: Rev. Jason Brian Santos, Ph.D. (206) 962-9886

Organist/Pianist: Celeste Scott

Community Presbyterian Church

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SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

61:1 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners;

61:2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

61:3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

61:4 They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

61:8 For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

61:9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

61:11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1:46b-55

1:46b "My soul magnifies the Lord,

1:47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

1:48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

1:49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

1:50 His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

1:51 He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

1:52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

1:53 he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

1:54 He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

5:16 Rejoice always,

5:17 pray without ceasing,

5:18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.

5:20 Do not despise the words of prophets,

5:21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good;

5:22 abstain from every form of evil.

5:23 May 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.

5:24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.