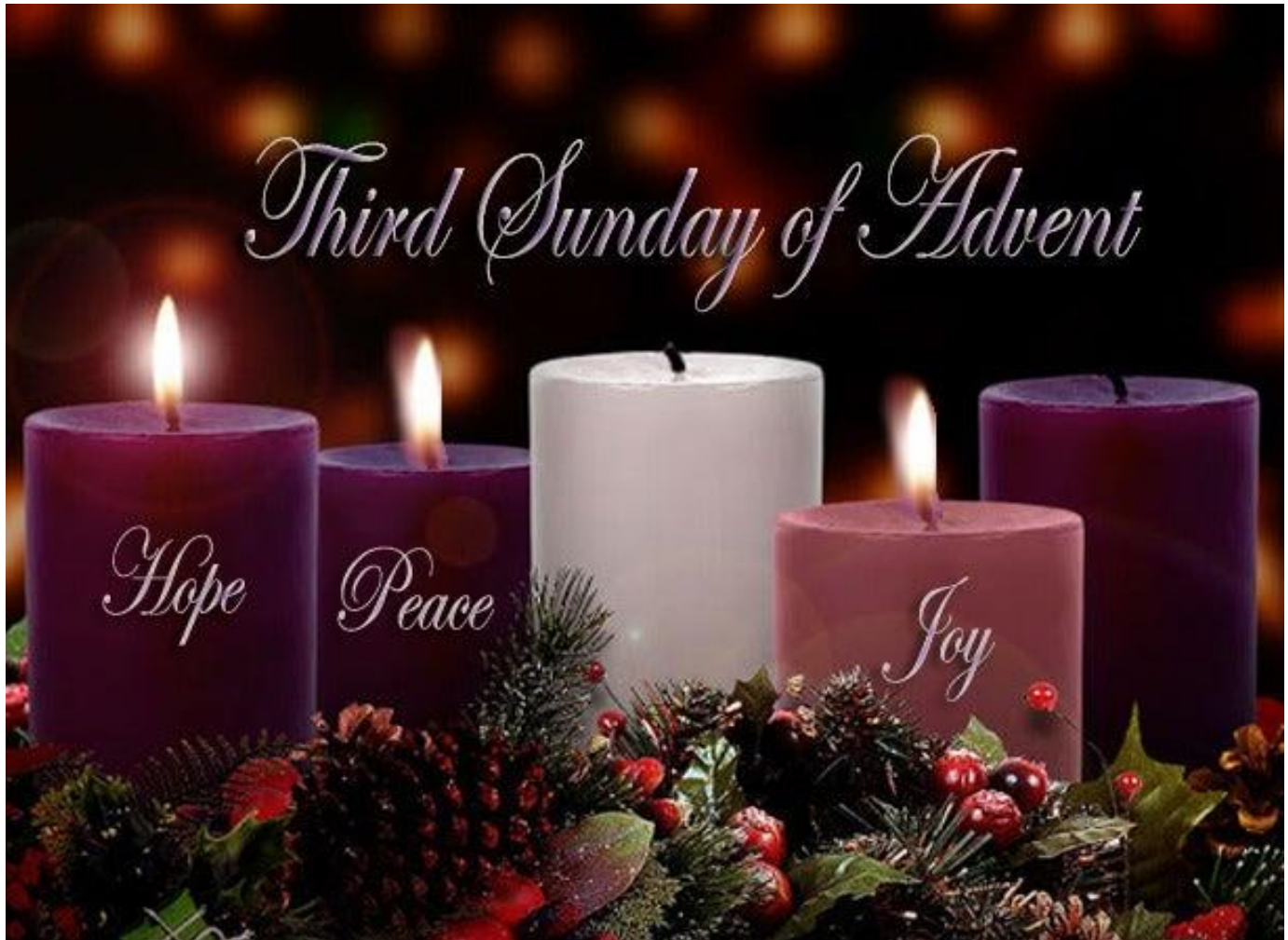




PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE ROSES

Reaching out with Nurturing Love to All



Third Sunday of Advent
December 12, 2021
Worship 10:00 am

First time here? We are happy to have you visit with us today and hope that your worship experience is blessed. Please pick up a free visitor bag.
Children with you? Activity materials for young worshipers are on the back tables. **Assistance needed?** The ushers have large print bulletins.

CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

**One asterisk signifies the congregation stands if able.
The bold type is spoken by the congregation.*

PRELUDE "The Shepherd" by J.F. Dandrieu

We Need a Little Christmas Video

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

(If you are a visitor, have a prayer request, or want to update your contact info, please fill out the connect card and place it in a basket by the doors.)

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING - The Candle of Joy

Reader 1: In a world of despair, where depression rates run high, where there has been so much sadness and loss, God, we call upon you to come.

Reader 2: In a world where joy is a distant memory, we call upon you, Great God of Joy, to come. *(Light the pink candle of Joy)*

Reader 1: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of Joy into our world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

Reader 2: Come, Messiah, Come, and help us sing with joy!

All: Dear God, we pray for all to experience the joy that is found in Jesus. Thank you for the birth of your son, our greatest gift.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (From Philippians 4:4 and Isaiah 12:2)

One: Come into the place where God listens!

All: Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!

Come as you are: broken, whole, sick, well

Satisfied or with deep needs

All: Come to sing, come to cry

Come to hear, come to see

Come and be ready or come to be made ready

We are here. God is here, too!

Let us worship God!

*HYMN #82 "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" Rowland Prichard

Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

One: God promises forgiveness through Jesus Christ. On this third Sunday of Advent, let us approach God in humility and faith.

All: Eternal God, John the Baptist prepares the way by calling upon us to repent. We have failed to share as we should. We have failed to honor the poor and the oppressed. We have failed to bear fruit worthy of your salvation. Have mercy upon us, God. Heal and forgive us so we can welcome Christ with pure and genuine hearts. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Isaiah 12:3-4)

All: With joy, let us draw water from the springs of salvation. We are forgiven. Give thanks to the Lord!

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE #581 Gloria Patri

CALL FOR OFFERING AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION Ellen Bowen

OFFERTORY "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" by L.H. Redner arr. by Bock

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION HYMN #286 "Breathe on Me Breath of God"

Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 12: 2-6 Ellen Bowen

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

And you will say on that day:

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;

let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy,
O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

"Arise, Shine"

by David Huntsinger

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3: 7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.' And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word! **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

"John the Baptist's Advice"

Rev. Dr Cindy Alloway

*HYMN (Tune 119) "John Went Out to Preach God's Word" Carolyn Gillette
MENDELSSOHN 7.7.7.7.7.7 with Refrain ("Hark! The Herald Angels Sing")

John went out to preach God's word, To prepare us for the Lord.

Speaking to the waiting crowd, He was faithful, stern and loud:

"Brood of vipers! Would you flee? Now the ax is by the tree!

Don't look at what others do; God wants change and growth in you.

Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"

People asked, "What should we do?"

John said, "Share your clothes and food.

Don't take more than what you need; Live by faith and not by greed.

Don't cause others grief or pain; Earn your bread through honest gain.

Here's what you are called to do: God wants change and growth in you.

Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"

Then the people asked of John, "Could he be the Chosen One?"

John gave them a quick reply: "He is greater still than I.

He'll bring change outside and in, He will judge and conquer sin.

He will come to make you new; God wants change and growth in you.

Live like children who obey! Bear good fruit! Begin this day!"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

A voice cries out in the wilderness: we must prepare the way of the Lord. During this season of Advent, we prepare the way of Christ with our prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayers.**

As the days grow short and the nights loom long, we praise you for these seasonal reminders that there is time for work and time for rest. For those of us who know warm homes and soft places to sleep, we thank you for these precious gifts. We pray for those who are unhoused, or those whose home is unsafe or financially insecure. May all your children get the rest they need to thrive. God of our salvation, **hear our prayers.**

As divisiveness and conflict continue to plague us, Holy God, we thank you for the generosity, kindness and care this season encourages within us. As we contemplate the vulnerability of Christ, born a fragile infant in a violent world, let us drop our facades and the masks of strength we hide behind. May this season of Advent prepare us to celebrate the strength that can be found in weakness and the power held in humility and love.

God of our salvation, **hear our prayers.**

As your people gather in homes and churches to celebrate this season, let us be reminded of all the reasons we have to rejoice in you. Let us be reminded of your protective presence, of your gentleness and love, of your peace which passes all understanding. Guard our hearts and minds this Advent, Savior God, so we can rejoice over your faithfulness through Jesus Christ our Lord. God of our salvation, **hear our prayers.**

As a people of faith, we lift these prayers to you, trusting you hear us and receive us. Finally, hear us now, as we pray the prayer Christ taught us by saying together,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And

lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*HYMN #100 (vs.1,4) "My Soul Cries Out With a Joyful Shout" Rory Cooney
My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your eyes on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from East to West shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

[Refrain] My heart shall sing of the day you bring, Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise that holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

(Refrain)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"NOEL Suisse XII"

by L.C. Daquin



Flowers are donated by the Bryant Family in memory of Jill's mother and granny, Tracy Barton Hostetter 3/11/1962-9/7/2013, and Mary Jean Barton 11/26/1928-12/12/2001.

Pastor: *Rev. Dr. Cindy Alloway* Liturgist: *Ellen Bowen*
Music: *Althea Wright, Linda Burille, Chancel Choir*
Technology: *Norm Smith, Phil Goede, Nico Wycoff*

**CHRISTMAS EVE
SING THE CAROLS CANDLELIGHT FAMILY SERVICE
with vocalist, Carol Menke, and Sacred Harpist
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24th at 7 pm**

PRAYER REQUESTS *Please include in your prayers*

Those mourning the death of their loved ones

- * The family of Barbara McElroy as they mourn her brother's passing.
- * The family of Janice Holmes as they mourn her passing on Oct. 23, 2021.

Her memorial will be on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.

- * The family of Tony Burille as they mourn his passing on Oct. 28, 2021.
- * The family of Jake Parsons as they mourn his passing on Oct. 29, 2021.

His memorial will be today: Sunday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

Those with health issues

Bill Beaumont	Maryann Iodence	Bob Simmons
Dolores Borchers	Carolyn Kenworthy	Susan Smith
Patrick Butler	Margret Kram	Sharon Sorani
Peggy Call	Arnold Kuprian	Susie Vela
Doreen Cowden	Vivian Mazeski	Bob Weber
Pat Currier	Jessica Morse	Jill White
Eldon Davis	Spencer Nguyen	Roger White
Dick Draper	Nancy Pinney	Helen Wikle
Sam Gomes	Lynette Randerson	Betty Witchey-Ryer
Michele Hare	Rosa Rosillo	Chris Yen's mom
Phil Henry	Pamela Sage	Avery Yudice

Those serving in our military

Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, Coast Guard Lt. Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. is stationed at the Joint Air Force Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Ak and serves as a Cardiologist with the Alaska Native Medical Center, Chris Loranger serving in Afghanistan.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES

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Office Hours: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 9 am-3pm

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