

December 11, 2022, 11am
Third Sunday of Advent
Joy (Pink)

Prelude ~ *Infant Holy* ~ Dale Wood

Announcements

Choral introit

God is Good

Everyday

And Everyday

God is Good

Call to Worship

My soul magnifies the Lord

My Spirit rejoices in God my savior.

The Mighty One has done great things!

Holy is God's name!

Advent Song ~ *Light One Candle* ~ Natalie Sleeth

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.

He brings hope to every heart. He comes! He Comes!

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.

He brings peace to ev'ry heart. He comes! He comes!

Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.

Ev'ry nation will find salvation in Beth'lem's baby boy.

The Lighting of the Advent Candles ~ Matt Isenberg and Judi Blair.

Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What brings you joy?" From the voices of different generations, hear their answers:

A clean kitchen.

Sand between my toes.

Being outside.

Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.

Having a camera in my hands.

My partner's laugh.

Mountain air.

When my parents pick me up.

The end of my to-do list.

Hugs from my niece and nephew.

Baby giggles.

My cat.

Putting my hands in the garden.
A chord resolved.
Stargazing.
Bedtime books.
A warm cup of coffee with friends.
My new granddaughter.
Lingering at the table after dinner.
Time with family.

Today we light the candle of joy. May its light remind us of all the good news this season brings. May its light remind us of the many sources of joy in our lives, and may that joy not only draw us closer to one another but closer to God. Family of faith, what brings you joy?

Opening Prayer

**Holy God, your prophets have long spoken
of the one who would come to save us.
Now the promise is fulfilled;
now your kingdom has come near.
Send us as messengers of your way,
to go and tell all the world
of the wonders we have seen
and the good news we have heard;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Children's time

Opening Hymn ~ *Joy to the World* ~ No. 134 (verses 1, 2, 4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is 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 earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

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.

Presentation of the Offering

Doxology ~ No. 606

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Anthem ~ *Carols Around* ~ C. Nygard

Prayer for Illumination

**Listen to the word that God has spoken;
listen to the One who is close at hand;
listen to the voice that began creation;
listen even if you don't understand.**

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus
²it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go

and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ ¹¹Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Word of God
The Word of Life

Message

Music for Meditation

Hymn ~ *Love Has Come* ~ No. 110

Love has come: a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
hear how their song of joy arises:
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
Love is God now asleep in the hay.
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
what is the name her heart is saying?
Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.

Love has come and never will leave us!
Love is life everlasting and free.
Love is Jesus within and among us.
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Blessing

Choral Benediction

Postlude ~ *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* ~ F. Ritter

(Music permission by One License: 734848-A)

Prayer List

Margaret Quigley	Emily Kennedy	Matt Isenberg
Barbara & Chuck Compher	Martin Hatch	Craig Polson
David Cross	Colt Matz	Chase Ewoldt
Stacey MacRae	Diane Trippany	Avrie Sinesiou
Joseph Kwiatkowski	Alyssa Daly and Family	Gretchen Randon
Dale Isenberg	Punkie Sinesiou	Renee Ensell

***Please let the office know who can be removed and who needs to be added.
Thank you for your help! ***

Happy Birthday to:

14 ~ Beth (McGonnell) Kalafatich, Samantha Hanners

17 ~ Cindy Shaver

CHURCH CALENDAR WEEK OF 12/11/22

Sunday – Dec. 11 9:35am Adult Discussion
 11am Worship
 Noon Deacons Meeting

Tuesday - Dec. 13 6:30pm Scouts

Wednesday - Dec. 14 Noon PW Christmas Lunch
 5:30pm CE Meeting
 7pm MEF Meeting

Thursday - Dec. 15 5:30pm Bring Your Own Dinner
 6:30pm Vespers
 6:45 Scouts
 7pm Choir
 7pm Bible Study

Friday - Dec. 16 10am Coffee and Conversation
 at North Union Tim Hortons
 7pm Bird Club

Sunday – Dec. 18 9:35am Adult Discussion
 11am Worship ~ Christmas Play

If you wish to speak with Pastor Bruce, please call 716-378-6773.



Today's flowers are given in loving memory of our parents by Lynn and Louie McClure.

The Genesis House

2022 Ornament, T-Shirt Sale and Luminaries Sponsorship

Those facing homelessness struggle with enormous obstacles due to darkness and frigid temperatures at this time of year. On December 21st, the longest night of the year, the Genesis House will light Lincoln Park with luminaries to promote awareness of homelessness within our community. This fundraiser allows the community to show their support with a \$10 donation.

Donations can be made to the Genesis House at the website or at Jim's Park and Shop on Saturday, December 10th from 2pm until 4pm and Sunday, December 11th from 10am until 12:30pm.

We will also return to Jim's Park and Shop on Saturday, December 17th and Sunday, December 18th at the same times.

We will additionally be at Reid's Food Barn on Saturday, December 17th from 2pm until 4pm and Sunday, December 18th from 10am until 12:30pm.

We will also be selling our T-shirts and ornaments at those locations and dates.

Thank you for your support.

