

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**  
**Worship Service on First Sunday in Advent**

*December 12, 2021*

**Pre-Service Music:** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* - Anthony Giamanco

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *The First Noel* - Benjamin David Kneeler

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

“Rejoice in the Lord always;                      again I will say, **Rejoice.**”  
The world says, “Worry,”                      and we say,    **“Rejoice.”**  
The news says, “Fear,”                      and we say, **“Rejoice.”**  
The world says, “Be happy,” and the church says, **“Be faithful.”**  
As we light our third Advent candle,  
We pray for hope, peace, and joy.  
**Come now, O child of Mary.**  
**Come now, O Prince of Joy**

**Advent Prayer**

**We praise you, O God, for this wheel of time that marks our days of preparation for Christ’s advent. As we light the candles on this wreath, open our eyes to see your presence in the lowly ones of this earth. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may sing of your advent among us in the Word made flesh. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

**Introit:** *Light Three Candles to Watch for Messiah G2G85 v. 1*

**Call to Worship**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

**Let us sing praises to the Lord,  
for God has done glorious things.**

Let us shout aloud and sing for joy,  
for great in our midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Come, let us worship God.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy spirit, one**

**God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Call to Confession**

In this season so many voices wish to claim  
our attention, our time, and our dollars.  
In this place one Voice claims our whole lives:  
soul, body, heart, and mind.

**In humility let us confess our faults  
to the Voice who proclaims our forgiveness.**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that, in the midst of your  
glorious creation, we have neglected our role in its care.  
We ignore the cries of the hurting and the lonely,  
those on the margins and those who are oppressed.  
We focus on our own desires, while forgetting the needs  
of our neighbors. We have not prepared a way for the Lord,  
through either our words or our deeds, neither through our  
actions nor our thoughts. Grant us your mercy in forgiveness;  
and lead us to act with compassion and justice, guided by your  
glorious light. Amen**

### **Declaration of Forgiveness**

Surely God is our salvation!

**We will trust in the Lord's goodness and will not be afraid.**

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **Passing the Peace of Christ**

## Holy Light – A Service of Carols

### READING

Light cannot enter a closed room.  
A pearl cannot form in a closed oyster.  
God does not force us into a relationship.  
**It is we who must take down the walls we have built.  
Who must open the door.**  
Love stands at the door and knocks  
**It is we who must open the door to let the light come in.**

On that day, a shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse,  
and from his roots a bud shall blossom.  
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him:  
a Spirit of wisdom and understanding.  
A Spirit of counsel and of strength,  
A Spirit of knowledge and of fear of the Lord,  
And his delight shall be the fear of the Lord.

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shown.**

### Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Charles Wesley

PROCESSIONAL\*

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Text: Liturgy of St. James, 5th cent.; tr. 1864 Gerard Moultrie, 1829-1885, *alt.*

Tune: PICARDY, French folk tune, 17th century



Choir: 1. Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and  
Choir: 2. King of kings, yet born of Mar - y, as of old on  
All: 3. Rank on rank the host of heav - en spreads its van - guard  
All: 4. At his feet the six - winged ser - aph, cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,  
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,  
on the way, as the Light of light, de - scend - ing,  
sleep - less eye, veil their fac - es to the pres - ence,



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -  
in the bod - y and the blood, he will give to all the  
from the realms of end - less day, comes, the pow'rs of hell to  
as with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



scend - ing comes our hom - age to de - mand.  
faith - ful his own self for heav'n - ly food.  
van - quish, as the dark - ness clears a way.  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Music: Newly composed in an arrangement by Robert A Hobby. Arrangement copyright © 2010 with this publication.

## **The Promise of Light**

**READING:**

**John 1:6-9**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**ANTHEM** *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Charles Wesley/Robert Hobby

**READING:** Three Parts to the Season *from "Crossings" Susan Palo Cherwien*

There are three parts to this season  
the waiting, and the waiting, and the waiting.  
Waiting for the Christ child to come, to be sure  
Who we know already came.  
Waiting for the burning coming of the Christ in our hearts,  
for the I-am-with-you-always.  
Waiting for the great coming of the reign of God  
when each table is a banquet and bread lines are no more.

There are three comings to this season, and three waitings, and three yearnings.  
And God, the answer to them all.

**ANTHEM** *My Lord What a Morning* H.T. Burleigh

## **The Light Dawns**

**READING:** Birth *from "Crossings" Susan Palo Cherwien*

**ANTHEM** *Still, Still, Still* Traditional Austrian Carol

**CAROL ANTHEM** *He is Born* Traditional French Carol

**Refrain: Choir**

**Stanza 1: Choir**

Through long ages of the past, prophets have foretold his coming  
Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last.

**Refrain: ALL**

**Stanza 2: Choir**

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect Child of heaven.  
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind!

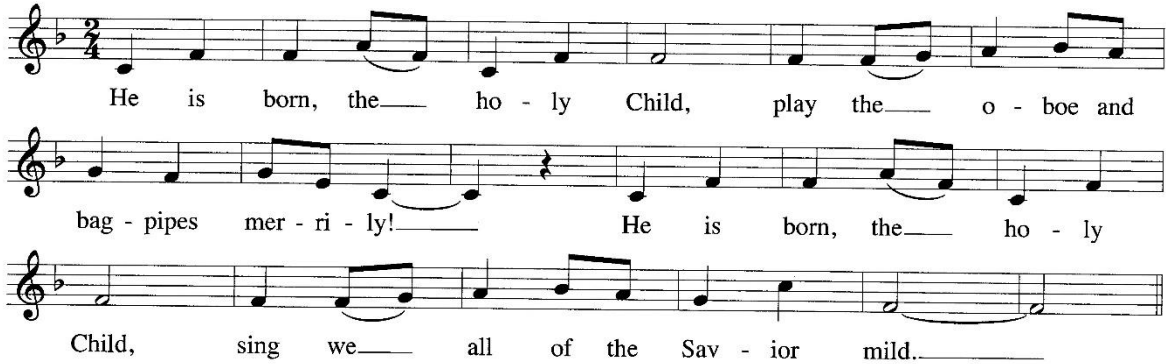
**Refrain: ALL**

### Stanza 3: Choir

Jesus Lord of all the world, coming as a child among us,  
Jesus Lord of all the world, grant to us thy heavenly peace.

### Refrain: ALL

#### Refrain:



He is born, the ho - ly Child, play the o - boe and  
bag - pipes mer - ri - ly! He is born, the ho - ly  
Child, sing we all of the Sav - ior mild.

#### READING:

#### Luke 1:76-79

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High:  
For you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give  
Knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.  
By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,  
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to  
guide our feet in the way of peace.

### The Light Spreads

ANTHEM *What Child is This* William Dix/Greensleeves

READING: Light: Both Particle and Wave *from "Glory into Glory" S. P. Cherwien*

Gloria

**A star is risen in the East.**

The bright, the Morning Star

**Light.**

Both wave and particle

**Light.**

Both substance and energy.

**Light.**

Both particle and wave, both earthly and holy.

And from that light they live and are transformed  
and give back to the universe beauty and peace.

**And heaven.**

**ANTHEM** *Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella* traditional French Carol

**Light to the World**

**ANTHEM:** *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* Johann Schop

**READING:** Blue from "Crossings" Susan Palo Cherwien

**ANTHEM** *O Come, Little Children* J.A.P. Shultz

**READING:** Light, Sum of All from "Crossings" Susan Palo Cherwien

**CAROL ANTHEM** *Go Tell It on the Mountain* John W. Work

**Refrain: All**

**Stanza 1: Choir**

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flock by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

**Refrain: All**

**Stanza 2: Choir**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus hat hailed our Savior's birth.

**Refrain: All**

**Stanza 3: Choir**

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

**Refrain: All (twice)**

**Refrain:**

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;  
go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

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## CLOSING PRAYER

O God, Creator of the stars of night, blessed are you, for you fill all creation with your holy light. So dwell in us that we too may be light in the darkness, warmth in the cold night, hope in the shadows, love in the dark hour. Amen

## SENDING CAROL *Joy to the World* G. F. Handel



1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -  
2. Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their  
3. No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -  
4. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the

ceive its King; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -

room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

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## BENEDICTION

May God who sent the bright angel choirs, bless us.  
May God who brought light to those in darkness, guide us:  
May God whose Spirit burns in us, keep us:  
Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *This Great Day* - Hugh S. Livingston, Jr. (please be seated)

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, and the Chancel Choir. Worship led by Frank Jessop. Readings presented by Mike Reno.*

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