

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Third Sunday in Advent**

December 11, 2022

Pre-Service Music: *Gabriel's Message* - Todd Beaney

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime* - Sandra Eithun

Lighting of the Advent Candle – Advent 3

“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.

GTG 103: *Come Now, O Prince of “JOY”* vs. 1

Call to Worship

Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.

The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.

Sorrow and sighing will flee:

let us come into God's presence with singing!

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #106: *Prepare the Way, O Zion* (please stand)

Call to Confession

The life of faith is not only about being faithful to God.

It is knowing that God is faithful to us.

Trusting that God will never turn away from us,

let us tell the truth about our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem.

There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow.

Beloved, we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Thanks be to God!

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

Passing the Peace of Christ

Gloria #113: “Gloria” refrain from *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Anthem: *Concertato on People, Look East* Marie Rubis Bauer

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

Worship leader will lead the prayers. God, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

God of our longing you know our deepest need. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children, as we pray the prayer your Son taught us to pray:

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 for Illumination#89: *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits* vs. 2 and 3

Choir or soloist sings the opening refrain. All present sing the verses and additional refrains.

Scriptures for the Day

A voice is crying in the wilderness:

Listen to the word of the Lord.

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 35:1 – 10

Epistle Lesson: James 5:7 - 11

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:46 - 55

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon:

Patience, Now

Susan Murray

Hymn of Affirmation #43:

On Eagles Wings

vs. 1, 2, and 4

Dedication of Tithes, Offerings , and Consecration of the Capital Campaign
(please stand)

Doxology: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* sung to *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Our gifts we bring to thee, O Lord, Amen.

Prayer of Consecration and Dedication:

Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. On this day we consecrate the pledges that have been made for the capital campaign at First Presbyterian Church, along with our tithes and offerings for the work of your church in this place. We give thanks and rejoice for the many gifts you have given to us. Make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.

Sending Hymn #611: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* (stand)

Benediction: (remain standing)

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 into the way of peace. Go now, sharing the light of Christ with others as you walk on the path of peace.
Luke 1:78-79

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Noel Nouvelet* - Anna Laura Page (please be seated)

Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Cheryl Koederitz and sermon provided by Susan Murray.

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