

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

December 15, 2024

Pre-Service Music: *The Cherry Tree Carol* – Anthony Giamanco

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *The First Nowell* – Benjamin David Knoedler

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 Candle Song #103: *Come Now, O Prince of Joy (see below)*

Come now, O Prince of Joy: make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus, reconcile all people.

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day

God, you are our salvation and trust.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

You redeem your people; you restore our fortunes.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

You have become our strength and salvation.

Rejoice in the Lord, for our God is near.

Let us sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things.

Let us offer joy, thanks, and praise this day.

Hallelujah!

Let us pray:

Prayer of the Day

God of good news, God of joy, your Spirit is always at work in our midst. Your nearness brings life and salvation. Help us join in the songs of our ancestors who have declared your mighty works God of good news, God of joy, your Spirit is always at work in our midst. Your nearness brings life and salvation. Help us join in the songs of our ancestors who have declared your mighty works through the generations. Let our praise arise with theirs as we rest in the joy of your arriving presence, AMEN.

God is Alive at Bethlehem!

“Lost in the Night ”

Finnish Song – Olav Lee

arr. Kyle Haugen

Reading for The Third Sunday in Advent: Isaiah 11:2-6

“Every Valley”

Isaiah 40: 4 – 5

Music by: Patti Drennan

Reading from the Gospel of John, chapter 1, verses 9–11

“Advent”

Words and music: Clyde Tipton

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon.

**Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.**

God of mercy:

**We confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers
and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to
false comforts.**

God of might.

**We confess that we have sinned. We have turned away
from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst.

**We confess that we have sinned. We plead come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.

Alleluia, Amen.

“Advent Cry”

Words and music: Joseph M. Martin
“Veni Redemptor” – Come Savior of the Earth

Prayers of Intercession and the Lord’s Prayer

God for whom we watch and wait, we come with our prayers for your people, your whole creation, and the coming of the kingdom.

We pray for those who are lonely, fearful, or struggling to know their worth, that they would receive comfort...

In your mercy.

Come, Lord Jesus.

We offer these prayers in the name of the one who was, who is, and who is to come. Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord who 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

“The King Shall Come”

John Brownlie

Timothy Jansen

“Lo, How a Rose”

15 c. German

Chorale

arr. John Leavitt

The Christmas Story

“A Virgin Unspotted”

Anonymous

William Billings

“Lullaby”

Words and music: John Ness Beck

“Gaudete”

Piae Cantiones 1582

arr. Robert J. Batastini

“Awake, Arise and Hail the Morn”

Sacred Harp, John Dobell

arr. Mack Wilberg

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Christina Rossetti

Daniel E. Gawthrop

Offertory: “On This Day, Earth Shall Ring”

1. On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us. Id – e – o – o – o, Id – e – o – o – o, Id – e – o, glo – ri – a, in excelsis Deo.
2. Gifts to thee we shall bring, humble tithes and offering, to the Lord, Christ our King, gifts that He first gave us, for He came to save us. Id – e – o – o – o, Id – e – o – o – o, Id – e – o, glo – ri – a, in excelsis Deo.

Prayer of Dedication:

**All things in heaven and earth belong to God,
who is coming in glory to reveal a new creation.
Let us offer our lives to the Lord. In this waiting season
fill us with hopeful expectation that we may see the signs
of your kingdom all around us and rejoice
in your coming salvation and glory. Amen.**

“God is Alive at Bethlehem!”

Traditional Basque Carol

arr. Ken Berg

Charge and Benediction:

(remain standing)

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

Postlude: *We Three Kings* – C.E. Walz

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