

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 17, 2017
Third Sunday Of Advent

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

OPENING RESPONSE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 126)

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion our mouth was filled with laughter.

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoice.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping shall come home with shouts of joy.

* HYMN "Watchman, Tell Us Of The Night" 20

Advent Candle Lighting –The Candle of Joy

Congregational Response: verse 3 "Now It's Time to Light the Candle"

(to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory")

"Now it's time to light the candle, In God's name we will rejoice.

Bells and organ play together, We will shout in one loud voice!

Light will overcome the darkness: Sing the joy the Christ child brings."

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN

O God of the covenant, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. The afflicted still await good tidings. The brokenhearted still need to feel our compassion. The captives still yearn for freedom, and those who mourn remain uncomforted.

Forgive us for failing to follow Christ's call to faithful ministry. Restore us and make us worthy to receive our Savior.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

FIRST READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

* HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" 31

SECOND READING Luke 1:46-55

SERMON "Rejoice!" Rev. Janell Blair

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from The Confession of 1967

We believe that in Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared human needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. In giving himself for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. We believe that God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER (debts, debtors)

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

* HYMN "O Little Town Of Bethlehem" 44

POSTLUDE

*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to *stand*

Welcome: To all who worship with us this morning. Visitors and members are asked to please sign the Ritual of Friendship pad. Thank you for worshipping with us!

Announcements: Next Sunday is Christmas Eve! We will worship as usual in the morning at 10:30a.m. and gather again for our traditional service with candlelight and communion and 5:00p.m. Please join us in celebrating God's greatest gift!

The church office will be closed December 25-29 for the Christmas holiday and Monday January 1, on New Year's Day. We wish you and yours joy at this blessed season.

December 31, New Year's Eve, is also a Sunday and we will worship at our usual time, 10:30a.m., but worship will include a New Year's twist!

Birthdays: December 22 – Pam Nicholas.

Anniversaries: No Anniversaries this week.

Flowers: No Flowers were purchased this week.

Refreshments: Ethel Marsh, provided refreshments for the Congregation today.

Newsletter: Deadline to submit articles and information for January newsletter is **December 20, 2017**. If you have an article or announcement please turn it in to Silvia or slip it under the door to her office.

Pastor: Rev. Janell Blair (361) 920-2492

Pianist: Marilyn Pearce

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9: 30 a.m. Sunday School – Upstairs Parlor Sunday School - Room 104 Ed. Wing
10: 1 0 a.m. Fellowship Time – Southeast Vestibule **Session Meets** – January 14, 2018.
10: 30 a.m. Morning Worship

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