

Community Presbyterian Church
open hearted, open minded



December 11, 2022

Third Sunday in Advent

Welcome to worship this morning!

Bulletin Cues: **Bold** indicates congregational response, * indicates please stand, if able
Bathrooms are located down the hall, around the corner to the left. A family bathroom is located in the hallway on the right hand side (next to the Kidz Klub).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

by J. S. Bach arr. Henry Geehl

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Glorious God, we have come to see your majesty.

To be told again, "Be strong, do not fear!"

We have come to walk with the redeemed on your Holy Way.

We have come to receive joy and gladness.

We have come to witness your miracles of love.

Surely you are with us, from generation to generation.

OPENING HYMN GTG 83

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

vs. 1 and 2



1 Come, thou long - ex-pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.

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LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

Bruce Felger and Peggy McCarty

People aged two to eighty-two were asked, "What brings you joy?" From the voices of different generations, hear the answers; then ask yourself the same question. When the mic comes to you, you may say a few words or pass it along.

Voice 1: A clean kitchen.

Voice 2: Mountain air.

1: Sleeping in my own bed after a night away.

2: Bedtime stories.

1: The end of my to-do list.

2: My cats.

1: A cup of coffee with friends.

2: Time with family.

1: Family of faith, what gives you joy?

Today we light the candle of joy, whose light reminds us of all the good news this season brings.

The third candle is lit.

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.

SUNG RESPONSE

From Generation to Generation

vs. 3



From gen-er-a-tion to gen-er-a-tion, we have shared the Christ-mas sto-ry
of a ba-by in a man-ger, who was born in Beth-le-hem.
Hope is wing-ing, Peace now ring-ing, Joy we're sing-ing, Love he's bring-ing.
3. We can choose a bet-ter way. And find joy in ev-'ry day.

Words: Debi Burns, using material from "From Generation to Generation" © A Sanctified Art | A Sanctified Art.org

Music: W ZLOBIE LEZY *public domain*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down and give ourselves room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of mercy,
a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious,
a million times a day we could choose the better way,
but so often we don't.
Forgive us for forgetting that grace and mercy are in our blood.
Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you.
Give us the courage to love even bigger than before,
and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.**

Silence for reflection

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Family of Faith, hear this good news:

No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way,
God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Holy God, scripture tells us that you came to Joseph through an angel—
loud and clear, impossible to miss.

Scripture also tells us that Joseph listened.

We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss.

We long for invitations to something more, something deeper.

And we long to be like Joseph and find the courage to follow.

With gratitude we listen. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
the crocus 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.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say 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.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
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;
the 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.
A 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.
No 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.
And 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC *Ding, Dong Merrily on High/ O Sanctissima*
Traditional Carols arr. Mark Hayes

GOSPEL READING Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.'

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

*HYMN OF THE DAY GTG 108 Of the Father's Love Begotten

vs. 1, 3, 4



1 Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan
 3 O, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed when the Vir - gin, full
 4 This is he whom seers in old time chant-ed of with one



to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the
 of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the
 ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom - ised



source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's Re -
 in their faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,



ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

JOYS AND CONCERNS/PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God, our Savior,
 hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father and Mother in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your 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 let us not be led into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen**

SENDING INTO THE WORLD TO LOVE AND SERVE

*CLOSING HYMN GTG 107 Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn *vs. 1 and 4*



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her - ald its dawn-ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
win - ter and cheer-less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing. Come as a ba - by
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear - less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heaven-ly door and lives now in-side us for - ev - er.
ev - ery day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

*ADVENT CHARGE AND BLESSING

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, "Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon."

Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Bring a Torch, French Carol/ The Holly and the Ivy
English Carol arr. Lani Smith

The Third Sunday of Advent

FROM GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

We can choose a better way

INSTRUCTIONS FOR A HARD CHOICE

First, you must take a deep breath.

Let oxygen dance through your lungs.

Exhale it slowly. Allow the hurt, the shame,

the anger to rise up in you. Let your mind run wild,

like a million loose horses. Let the narratives unfold, unroll,

a river of choppy water. Ask yourself how you got here. Look

down at your feet. Roll your shoulders back. Remember who you

are. Take another deep breath. Then, walk it back to the beginning.

Instead of looking at your feet, look at hers. Imagine where she stands. Imagine what he needs. Dry the river of false stories in your mind. Turn rushing water into a dry creek bed, certainly not clean enough to drink. Call the horses. Bring them home.

Watch as they shake off the dust of the day. Name what

you're feeling. Inhale again. Now you are ready

to choose a better

way.

Community Presbyterian Church

open hearted, open minded

Sunday, December 11

Third Sunday in Advent

- 9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
- 10:30 am Gift Wrapping for Gage East
- 10:30 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
- 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Tuesday, December 13

- 12:00 pm Conference Call *
- 12:00 pm Bulletin Information Due
- 6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

- 6:30 am Prayer Group
- 6:30 pm Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
- 7:15 pm CPC Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15

- 5:15 pm Gage East Christmas Party
- 5:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Sunday, December 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent

- 8:45 am Jubellation Handbell Rehearsal
- 9:30 am Worship - Onsite and Online
- 2:30 pm Building Usage: Labranza de Dios

Online Worship: Sundays 9:30 – 10:30am
<https://meet.google.com/vao-wjef-cbe>
+1 575-305-4527 PIN: 652 821 468 #

* **Tuesday's Conference Call**
+1 413-889-2244 PIN: 433 818 991#



Judy Leal
Jane and Ed Burgstaler family,
especially daughter Jenny
Connie Holst
MariLynn Johnson
Vera Atkinson's daughter, Teresa
Shannon Cisewski
Judy Robb's brother, Dan
Jennifer Hall
Ron Murray

Church Staff

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Pastor | Rev. Jan Wiersma |
| Choir Director | Meg Cain |
| Handbell Director | Judy Kereakos |
| Pianist | Glenna Muir |
| Custodian | Nancy Sanford |
| Office Manager | Stephanie Pasch |

Serving in Worship Today

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Liturgist | Dave Copeland |
| Special Music | Judy Kereakos and Mary Ellen Malkasian |
| Candlelighters | Bruce Felger and Peggy McCarty |
| IT Support | Louis Bouchard |

To be added to the prayer list, please contact Pastor Jan at pastor@cpcrochester.org.
For emergency pastoral care, call Pastor Jan at 763-219-2927.



FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION...

We can choose a better way

The CPC Mission Committee is sponsoring a holiday drive to provide gifts to 23 young adults at Gage East Apartments. The gift baskets will be wrapped after church today. Refreshments will be served.



Gage East Christmas!
Thursday, December 15,
at the Empowerment Center
Time: 5:15-6:30 pm

Volunteers are needed to serve dinner donated by The Canadian Honker! Last year we had a wonderful time interacting with tenants and watching the children play. Sign up in the narthex!

Looking Ahead...

December 18, Advent Four - Love: Luke 1:39-45, 56-58, and Luke 1:46-55
Two Mothers and One Brave New World

December 24, Saturday, Christmas Eve,
a candlelight service of lessons and carols at 6 pm (please note the time).
This will take the place of a Sunday, Christmas morning, service.
Volunteers to read the lessons are welcome! Speak to Pastor Jan.