

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

The THIRD Week of Advent:

December 17, 2023 at 10 am

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. (Isaiah 55:12)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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HYMN #28: “GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE”

Good Christian friends, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow,
And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart, and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE, PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

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HYMN #53: "WHAT CHILD IS THIS?"

What Child is this who, laid to rest
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. *[Refrain]*
So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. *[Refrain]*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON (unison)

**God of salvation, in Christ you have done great things—
our hearts are filled with joy.**

**By your power you lifted us out of the wasteland of sin
and brought us with joy and laughter into your kingdom.
Salvation is your gift to us.**

But we confess that often we try to replace your gift with our own efforts.

**We try to complete what is already perfect;
we try to add to what is already full;
we try to earn what we already have.
Forgive us for our foolishness.**

**Help us to focus on your grace.
Help us to live grateful lives in return.
For Jesus' sake alone, Amen.**

Based in Psalm 126

After corporate prayer we will have a few moments of silence for personal confession.

CHOIR: "MARY, MARY"

THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

Sermon: "Joy to the World"

Psalm 98

A psalm.

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD,
for he has done wonderful deeds.

His right hand has won a mighty victory;
his holy arm has shown his saving power!

² The LORD has announced his victory
and has revealed his righteousness to every nation!

³ He has remembered his promise to love and be faithful to Israel.
The ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ Shout to the LORD, all the earth;
break out in praise and sing for joy!

⁵ Sing your praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song,

⁶ with trumpets and the sound of the ram's horn.
Make a joyful symphony before the LORD, the King!

⁷ Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!
Let the earth and all living things join in.

⁸ Let the rivers clap their hands in glee!
Let the hills sing out their songs of joy before the LORD,
for he is coming to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with justice,
and the nations with fairness.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

*The metal basket in the offering plate is for gifts to support
our deacons' provision of care, support, and financial assistance to those in need.*

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DOXOLOGY

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. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

* *Please stand if you are able*

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HYMN #40: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns:
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Monday, Wednesday – Friday)

WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG

CALENDAR

- TODAY, Dec 17** Choir Practice (9:00 in Parlor)
Third Sunday of Advent: Worship Service (10:00)
- Tuesday, Dec 19** Tuesday Crew (9:00–11:30)
Worship at Channel Point (10:30)
Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Thursday, Dec 21** Mission Project: Homeless Bags (1:00 pm)
Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sunday, Dec 24** Fourth Sunday of Advent: Worship Service (10:00)
Christmas Eve Family Service (5:00 pm)
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (10:00 pm)
- Sunday, Dec 31** Sharing Table (before and after the service)