

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN

**The THIRD Week of Advent:**

*December 11, 2022 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 #40: “JOY TO THE WORLD”**

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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.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, PASSING THE PEACE,  
PRAYERS FOR THE CONGREGATION—AND THE WORLD**

**LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)**

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We gather in preparation,  
**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

We gather in expectation,  
**for in Christ we are promised glorious, inexpressible joy.**

We gather in celebration,  
**for we are those people who have said  
yes to the manger,  
yes to love enfleshed,  
yes to the one incarnate for others,  
yes to the wholeness of God.**

With preparation and in expectation,  
let us celebrate and worship our Savior and Lord!

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**HYMN #41: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

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O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

*O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing! [REFRAIN]

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all  
Glory in the highest! [REFRAIN]

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**HYMN #31: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

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Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time, behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus our Emmanuel. [REFRAIN]

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth. [REFRAIN]

## THE READING AND PROCLAMATION OF SCRIPTURE

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*"The Unsanitized Christmas Story, Part 3: Wise Men and a Righteous Man"*

### **Matthew 2:1-23**

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, <sup>2</sup> "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

<sup>3</sup> King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,  
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,  
for a ruler will come from you  
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

<sup>9</sup> After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! <sup>11</sup> They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

<sup>13</sup> After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

<sup>14</sup> That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, <sup>15</sup> and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

<sup>16</sup> Herod was furious when he realized that the wise men had outwitted him. He sent soldiers to kill all the boys in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under, based on the wise men’s report of the star’s first appearance. <sup>17</sup> Herod’s brutal action fulfilled what God had spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

<sup>18</sup> “A cry was heard in Ramah—  
weeping and great mourning.  
Rachel weeps for her children,  
refusing to be comforted,  
for they are dead.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. <sup>20</sup> “Get up!” the angel said. “Take the child and his mother back to the land of Israel, because those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”

<sup>21</sup> So Joseph got up and returned to the land of Israel with Jesus and his mother.

<sup>22</sup> But when he learned that the new ruler of Judea was Herod’s son Archelaus, he was afraid to go there. Then, after being warned in a dream, he left for the region of Galilee.

<sup>23</sup> So the family went and lived in a town called Nazareth. This fulfilled what the prophets had said: “He will be called a Nazarene.”

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## WE RESPOND TO GOD’S LOVE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

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*The ceramic jars in the offering plates are designated for the Deacons’ Fund **and** the World Vision Fund. Our deacons provide care, support, and financial assistance to those in the congregation in need. The World Vision Fund supports a Sponsored Child through World Vision.*

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### DOXOLOGY

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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.

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### HYMN #63: “AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD”

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As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most glorious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to Thee.

\* *Please stand if you are able*

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heaven and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ABERDEEN**

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Office Hours: 10 am – 2 pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri)

Caretaker Hours: 9:00 – 1:00 (Mon, Tues, Wed; plus additional intermittent hours)

Tuesday Crew Facility Maintenance: 9 am – 1 pm (Tues)

**WEBSITE: ABERDEENPRES.ORG**

## CHURCH CALENDAR: UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thurs, December 15** Deacons' Meeting (6:00 pm)
- Sun, December 18** Christmas Cantata: "*By Heaven's Light*" (10:00)
- Tues, December 20** Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group (1:00 pm)
- Sat, December 24** Christmas Eve Services (5:00 and 10:00 pm)
- Sun, December 25** Worship Service in the Parlor (10:00)
- Sun, January 8** Potluck after the Worship Service