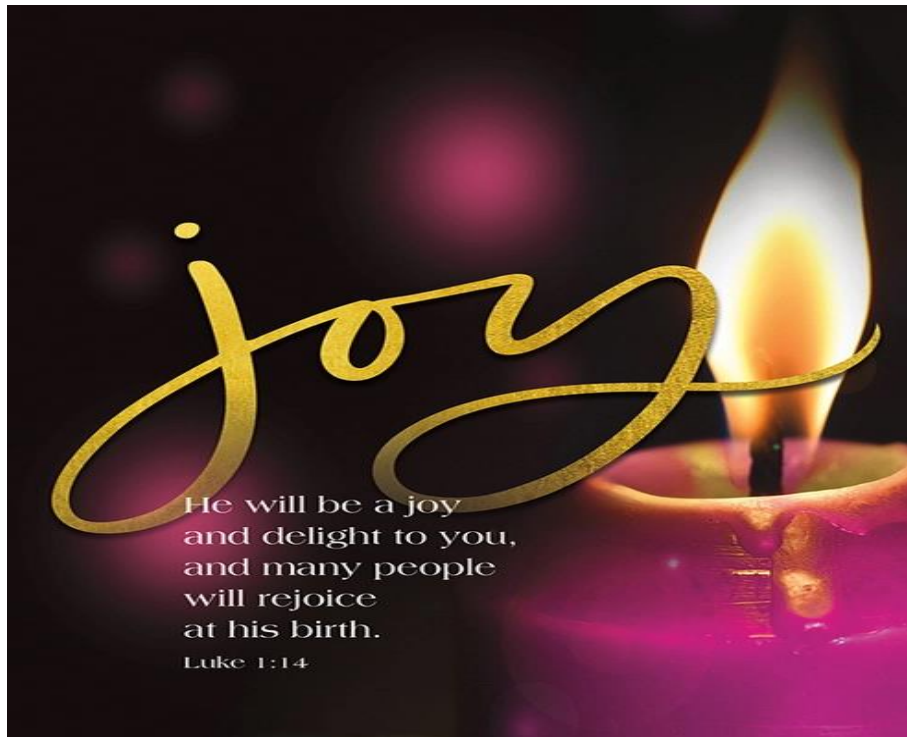




Wentz's United Church of Christ

3246 Skippack Pike Lansdale, PA 19446 610.584.4855

Sunday, December 11th 2022 10am
Third Sunday of Advent



“The mere sense of living is joy enough.” Emily Dickinson

PRELUDE

Greeting and Reply

Opening Hymn: **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah (G-501)**

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow'rful hand;
Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my Strength and Shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.*

Our Church's Mission:

Welcome all into a loving, inclusive faith community,
Seeking to live out the teachings of Jesus,
Building on our own rich history,
Actively exploring beliefs and assumptions, and Promoting justice, peace and spiritual growth.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: The Spirit of the Sovereign God is on me, because God has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.

Many: He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

One: To proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Many: To proclaim the year of God's favor,

One: To comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion-

Many: To bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes,

One: The oil of gladness instead of mourning,

Many: And a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

One: They will be called oaks of righteousness,

Many: A planting of God for the display of his splendor.

One: Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,

Many: For great is the Holy One of Israel among you.

(Lighting of the candle) Kline Family)

Reader: "And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior, for he has looked down with favor on the loneliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

All: Today we give thanks for the Mary's among us, who step out of the role's society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

Elder: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

Advent Song

Music: 1st, 2nd, 3rd stanza of "Light the Advent Candle"

Hebrew Reading: Psalm 51: 1-2, 6-9

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy,
blot out my transgressions.

²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,
and cleanse me from my sin.

⁶You desire truth in the inward being;
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my iniquities.

¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right^[b] spirit within me.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:2-12

Messengers from John the Baptist

²When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his^l disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

Jesus Praises John the Baptist

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone^[c] dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he

INVOCATION

Worship & Praise through Music

Passing the Peace of Christ

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Announcements

Offering



"I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy".

***1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.***

***2 I've got the peace that passeth understanding
Down in my heart,***

*Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the peace that passeth understanding
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.*

*3 I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart;
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus,
Down in my heart,
Down in my heart to stay.*

Doxology (Praise God from whom all blessings flow)

Sermonic Hymn: **Joy to the World – (G-179)**

*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 Earth, the Savior reigns
Let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy*

*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***

MESSAGE: This Joy



RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD Joyful, Joyful (G-59)

***Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
Mortals, join the happy chorus
which the morning stars began;
love divine is reigning o'er us,
joining all within its span.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.***

Prayers of the People

Benediction

POSTLUDE

The Three-Minute Suggestion:

Please spend the first three minutes with someone who is relatively new to our church family, or new to you. Get to know them like a friend might! THEN take some time with longtime friends. Thanks!

WORSHIP CONTINUES IN FELLOWSHIP:

Join for Coffee and Connections in the Connections Café brought to you this week by Dave & Kathy Wells.



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June Wright- Organist
Laura McLennan and Jim O'Donnell- Music Dept
Matt MacDonald- social media