

December 11, 2022

Order of Worship

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00am

An asterisk () indicates times when you are invited to stand. Selections in **BOLD** are responses spoken by the congregation.*

Welcome and Announcements

Deacon

Prelude

What Is This Lovely Fragrance
Steven Scott (based on a traditional melody)

Norman McFarlane

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Joy Candle

Youth

Leader: The joy of the season is upon us. The time is almost here.

People: We have come to praise the Lord!

Leader: We are here to sing praises to God, the Holy One in whom we place our trust.

People: God opens our eyes and lifts us up.

Leader: Let us joyfully praise God who reigns forever.

All: Let our joy be complete! Amen!

*Gathering Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

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Message for All

Sarah Pradhan

Joy and Concern cards will be collected by the Deacons

It is a "We all worship together Sunday." There will be no Sunday School. After the message for all, children are welcome to spend time in the playground or sit with their grownups.

Scripture

Deacon

As we hear the words of scripture

Let us listen in the words for the Word of God.

Philippians 4: 1-13

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Ee-Oh-Da and I urge Sin-ta-chee to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

The grass withers and the flower fades
But the Word of God shall stand forever

Sermon Message

“Joy Insurance”

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Prayers of the People for the World

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Lord in your mercy
All: hear our prayers.

The Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem

Prepare The Way of the Lord
Jacques Berthier and the Community of Taizé

Choir

The Lord’s Supper

All are welcome to partake in the sacrament of communion.

The Invitation

This table is for all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God’s people.

ALL: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ’s table.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and mercy, for calling forth the creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We give you thanks for the gift of Jesus, our only savior.

ALL: We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this table of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, the good news who is the way, the truth, and the life. We worship and glorify you, God most holy as we say:

**Holy, holy, holy God
Of love and majesty,
The whole universe speaks of your glory,
O God Most High.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!**

The Words of Institution

On the night of betrayal, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: “Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

ALL: Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.
The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.
Let us pray together.

ALL: Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are ready.
Take and eat, this is the body of Christ, broken for you.
Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of Promise, we give thanks for this meal. Let it be a foretaste of your beloved Kingdom, filled with hope, peace, joy, and love. And may it sustain us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, already in our midst. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

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***Benediction**

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

**Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness;
Be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good;
Render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted;
Support the weak; help the afflicted;
Honor all people; love and serve God;
Rejoicing through the power of the Holy Spirit.
The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen**

***Parting Song**

God Be With You 'Till We Meet Again (modified)

**God be with You till we meet again.
By God's counsels guide, uphold you.
God will place arms all around you.
God be with you till we meet again.**

Rev. Chris Mereschuk (He/Him) will be serving as Bridge Pastor through Christmas Eve, primarily providing worship leadership. Chris specializes in transitional ministry and vitality discernment. He has served churches in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Orleans, and Virginia. More information can be found at revcjm.com.