

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

December 11, 2022

10:00am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

GATHERING

PRESERVICE MUSIC

“Christ Is Coming!”

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

“Jesus, Name Above All Names”

“God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen”

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION “Christmas Joy Offering” (Margo Fullinwider)

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE (Bob & Joy Kurtz)

Jesus says: I am coming soon.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come: The nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

(light the first candle)

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, **the calf and the lion and the fatling will lie down together, and a little child shall lead them.**

(light the second candle)

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

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

(light the third candle)

Let us walk in the light of the Lord. **Amen.**

CHIMES

(The pouring of water invites us to remember and to celebrate our baptism into the body of Christ.)

PRELUDE

"It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (Young)

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Please exchange these words with your immediate neighbors: "The peace of the Lord be with you." "And also with you."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Luke 1:46b-47, 49

My soul magnifies the Lord;
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.
The Mighty One has done great things.
Holy is God's name
Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN #394 *"Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"* (Purcell)

*PRAYER OF ADORATION

Holy God, your prophets have long spoken of the one who would come to save us. Now the promise is fulfilled; now your kingdom has come near. Send us as messengers of your way, to go and tell all the world of the wonders we have seen and the good news we have heard; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*GLORIA PATRI #581

"Glory Be to the Father" (Greatorex)

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing. Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord God, in this dry and dusty place, pour out the power of your Spirit so that your word may blossom in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. **Amen.**

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING FROM THE BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalm 146:5-10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

James 5:7-10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Manger Songs” (Arr. Larson) (Choir Ensemble)

(Please stand for the reading of the Gospels if you are able)

*READING FROM THE GOSPELS

Matthew 11:2-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

*HYMN #610

“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (Glaser)

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end, he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As a farmer plants the seeds and waits for the rains to come, let us entrust our gifts to the Lord as we await the coming of God's reign.

MUSICAL OFFERING

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (Rasley)

*DOXOLOGY #606

Genevan Psalter

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth--giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

*OUR 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN #384

"Soon and Very Soon" (Crouch)
(December hymn of the month)

*MOMENT OF SILENCE TO PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*POSTLUDE

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.
Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.

Elements of Worship Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2012.