

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
December 12th, 2021 10:00am  
Live Streaming In Person

Order of Worship  
Third Sunday of Advent

*Gathering Music: "I've Got Peace Like a River"*

Steven Johnson

*I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*I've got peace like a river. I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean.*

*I've got love like an ocean in my soul.*

*I've got love like an ocean. I've got love like an ocean.*

*I've got love like an ocean in my soul.*

*I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain in my soul*

*I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain. I've got joy like a fountain in my soul*

*I've got peace, love and joy like a river. I've got peace, love and joy like a river.*

*I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul.*

*I've got peace, love and joy like a river. I've got peace, love and joy like a river.*

*I've got peace, love and joy like a river in my soul*

Welcome

Rev. Barbara Macfie

Lighting the Advent Candle

The Sprague Family

*Music: Advent Song. (Light the Advent Candle v3)*

*Light the Advent candle three: Think of heavenly harmony.  
Angels singing "Peace on Earth" at the Blessed Savior's birth.*

*Chorus:*

*Candle, candle burning bright. Shining in the cold winter night.  
Candle, candle burning bright. Fill our hearts with Christmas light.*

*Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. As we light this third candle of Advent, we continue our journey to Christmas. The third candle of Advent is called **Joy** candle; as we anticipate Christmas, let us remember the **joy** felt by those who realized what was happening.*

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:13b "I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and **joy** instead of sorrow."

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen

### **Call To Worship**

*Bob Duncan*

God comes! So don't let go of all the reasons to rejoice.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

God comes! So don't stop lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

**We will sing a song of Advent, to the One who hears our words and silence.**

God comes! So don't stop giving your hearts to God.

**We will sing a song of Advent to the One who graces us with a peace we cannot begin to understand.**

~written by Thom Shuman, and posted on **Lectionary Liturgies**. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

*Hymn: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

*GTG #88 (vs 1,2, & 6)*

*1 O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear. Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel*

*2 O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go. [Refrain]*

*6 O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. [Refrain]*

### PREPARING FOR THE WORD

#### **Call to Confession**

*Bob Duncan*

Although God is the source of our joy, our sin often hinders our joy and the joy of others.

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**Prayer of Confession:** *(based on 1Thess. 5:16-24)*

**Mighty and powerful God, your word says, "Rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about the things that don't go right. Your word says, "Pray without ceasing." But we go for days without even thinking about You. Your word says, "Give thanks in all circumstances." But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve blessings. Your word says "Hold fast to what is good," while we hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting.**

#### **Words of Forgiveness:**

*Bob Duncan*

*(based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)*

The prophets of old have declared, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For the Lord has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and has covered me with the robes of righteousness. Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

**Hearing the Word**

**Message for all God's Children**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

*"Playing the Opposite Game"*

*Song: "Rejoice in the Lord, Always"*

*Steven Johnson*

*Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice  
Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice  
Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! And again I say rejoice!*

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Bob Duncan*

Speak to us again your Word of truth, that our lives may be filled with your joy, this day, and forever. Amen.

**Old Testament Reading:** Isaiah 12:2-6

*Bob Duncan*

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord himself, is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. In that day you will say: Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done, and proclaim that his name is exalted.

Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things; let this be known to all the world. Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel among you."

**New Testament Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by

prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Anthem: "How Great Our Joy"*

**Sermon**

*Rev. Barbara Macfie*

*"Joy To the World, Joy, Joy, Joy"*

### Responding to the Word

*Affirmation of Faith "Joy to the World"*

*GTG 134 (vs 1)*

*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.*

**Offertory Invitation**

*Bob Duncan*

This advent season may you give your offerings in such a way that they embody a spirit of profound joy and gratitude.

*Doxology*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel*

**Offertory Prayer**

*Bob Duncan*

Generous God, we thank you for bringing us to this season of faith, hope, and love. As we look at our lives, we see evidence of the countless ways that you have provided for our needs. Let gratitude well up in our hearts and overflow in generosity to others. Draw us outward to see ways that we can joyfully share what you have given. Let our

acts of kindness as a church bear good fruit in the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Luke 3:7-18)

## **Prayers of the People**

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Rev Barbara Macfie*

*Hymn: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

**GTG #93**

*1 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!*

*2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!*

*3 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!*

## **Benediction**

## **Postlude**

### **Thank you to those involved in worship today**

Rev. Barbara Anne Macfie

Ushers: Phil and Marylea Franz

Liturgist: Bob Duncan

Advent Candle: The Sprague Family

Musicians: Steve Johnson and the Choir

## **Remember in Prayer**

*Pray for all those touched recently by violence and natural disasters, the healing of national hostility and mistrust, efforts to feed the poor and provide shelter for the homeless in our area, and the following people:*

***Sarah Altvater** has requested our prayers that the Holy Comforter will be a calming and peaceful presence in her life, and shine the light of wisdom on the medical professionals who support her.*

***Bob Book** was admitted to hospital and is expected to remain inpatient for several days. Please pray for their strength and healing, as Bob and Linda face their health challenges with courage and grace.*

*It is with great sadness that we report the passing of **Harry and Elsie Marshall's son, Erik**, on Saturday afternoon, November 27, 2021. Erik had just been transferred to hospice care. We extend our sympathy and prayers for comfort and strength to Harry, Elsie and Kent.*

***Sue Culin** fell and suffered numerous fractures. She is in great pain and in hospital, and surgery is being considered. Please pray for relief of her pain, wisdom and skill of her doctors and a full recovery.*

***Marlene Rutherford** is carrying an unbelievable burden and needs our prayers. Her husband passed away just before Thanksgiving, all 3 of her children have been diagnosed with cancer. Please pray strength comfort and healing. If you know Marlene, please reach out to her with a card or phone call.*

***Pam Bosco** (Deb Norton's sister)*

***Charlie Brabant***

***Chuck Burton** (Lois Raynor's relative)*

***Jay Carlson** (Clare MacDonald's son-in-law)*

***Ed Carter***

***Pauline Cottingham***

***Peter Culin** (Sue Culin's brother-in-law)*

***Bill and Sandra Hrin***

*Lib Macnab*

*Marcy*

*Sharon*

*Lacey Meade (Betty Pratt's daughter)*

*Rev. Innocent Mabuza*

*Karen Reed Noel (Jim Reed's half-sister)*

*Betty Pratt*

*Robbie*

*Janet Waugaman (Sally Waugaman's daughter)*

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**

**301 King Charles Avenue**

**Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971**

**(302)227-2109**

**[rehobothwpc20@gmail.com](mailto:rehobothwpc20@gmail.com)**

**Pastoral Care Rev. Barbara Macfie**

**cell (732) 501-2097**

**[bmacfie@me.com](mailto:bmacfie@me.com)**