

# First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019

10:00 a.m.

*In preparation for worship, please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.*

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music

Concerns of the Church

Prelude "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers"

arr. Sedio

Call to Worship

from Luke 1:46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord!

**My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!**

God's mercy is for those who fear him in every generation.

**The Lord has helped his servant Israel**

**in remembrance of his mercy.**

\* Hymn 132 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

*Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.*

\* Call to Confession

\* Prayer of Confession

*from Isaiah 35:1-10*

**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.**

\* Silent Confession

\* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent Response (see insert for music)

**Are you the One or should we wait for one to lead the quest?**

**Look at the miracles today. They'll put your doubts to rest.**

**For hope is born among us as Christ brings light and life.**

**The dawn of grace shall set us free from all our pain and strife.**

Special Music

"Prepare the Way"

Bedford

*Chapel Choir*

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (OT, p. 663)

Biblical Song: The Magnificat (Hymnal 100)

(v. 1 – all, v. 2 – women, v. 3 – men, v. 4 – all)

A Time with Children

Anthem

"Waiting for a King"

Martin

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11 (NT, p. 11)

Sermon: "Hope is Unexpected Mercy"

Rev. Carter

*Advent sermon series: "Hope is..."*

## RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

\* Hymn 107 "Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

\* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Offering

Offertory

"My Soul Give Glory to the Lord"

arr. Owens

\* Doxology (606)

\* Prayer of Dedication

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn 123 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Congregational Response (765)

***May the God of hope go with us every day  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace. Singing, share our joy with all.  
Working for a world that's new. Faithful when we hear Christ's call.***

\* Postlude "How Great Our Joy" arr. Young

*All are invited to remain seated to listen to the postlude.  
If you are leaving before it is finished, please do so quietly.*

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\* All who are able shall stand.

**PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Pastor	Rev. William G. Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Chapel Choir Accompanist	Nathaniel Worrell
Liturgists	Members of Chapel and Alleluia Choirs
Ushers	Betty Keen and Jim McLaughlin
Greeters	Mick and Lee Wirth
Advent Candlelighters	Chapel and Alleluia Choirs

*We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.*



**... 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.**

**Matthew 11:11, NRSV**

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