



*And Mary said: "My
soul magnifies the Lord and
my spirit rejoices in God
my Savior ..."*

LUKE 1:46-47, NRSV

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:00 a.m.

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

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music and Words of Welcome

Prelude "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" arr. Frank Ashdown

Call to Worship from Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel!

Rejoice! Exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem!

The Lord your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory;

**God will rejoice over you with gladness
and renew you in his love.**

* Hymn 106

"Prepare the Way, O Zion"

Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

Lord Christ,

we confess our willingness to be loved

but also our reluctance to love.

We confess our readiness to accept your forgiving love

but also our refusal to forgive.

We confess our eagerness to grasp your offer of redeeming love

but also our resistance to follow you without question.

In this Advent season, forgive our failure to respond as we could.

Come to us anew, and by your grace,

assist us to receive you with joy, gratitude, obedience, and love.

Even so: come, Lord Jesus.

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Response (to Hymn 150)

Light a candle bright and tall for the Joy this season brings.

Joy like fountains brimming full through our world now let it ring.

Shine within our hearts today. Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.

Reception of New Members

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7 (NT, p. 198)

Psalter: Isaiah 12:2-6 (Hymnal 71)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Gospel Magnificat”

Patti Drennan

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:46-55 (NT, p. 57)

Sermon: “God, Magnified”

Rev. Carter

Series: Luke’s Christmas Carols

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 372

“O for a World”

* Affirmation of Faith: A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

***Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,***

***we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.***

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

***preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word
and deed and blessing the children,***

healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

Minute for the Christmas Joy Offering

Offering

Offertory

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night arr. Lyndell Leatherman

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 132

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude “And the Glory of the Lord” (from Messiah) arr. Dorothy Wells

If you are leaving before the postlude is finished, please do so quietly.

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers are given to the glory of God by Diane Cosner and John Conklin in memory of loved ones.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor	Rev. William Carter
Coordinator of Children and Youth	Jana Schillinger
Director of Music	Frank Jones
Organist	Kay Ten Eyck
Liturgist	Judy Cutler
Advent Wreath	Judy Cutler, Tommy Campione, and Judy Colon
Ushers	Betsey Ellis and Bill Farrell

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Christmas Eve, December 24

- 4:00 p.m. Christmas for Children and Families
- 8:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols with the Adult Choir
- 11:00 p.m. Jazz Christmas Service with the Lord's Supper and the Presbybop Quartet