

Third Sunday of Advent



Central Presbyterian Church

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December 15, 2024
3rd Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Announcements

Please take a quiet moment to prepare your heart for worship.

Prelude

Prayer of Preparation *(for your personal use, during Prelude)*

We light the third candle to pray for joy, for ourselves and for everyone. We give thanks for the beauty of joy and the way it comes to us when we don't expect it. We pray for everyone who feels no joy. May they find some hint of joy that shines like this candle flame. Amen.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Isaiah 12:2-6**

L: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; He has become my salvation.

P: With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day:

L: “Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name; make known His deeds among the nations; proclaim that His name is exalted.

P: Sing Praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.

L: Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

***Hymn** *“Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”* **RED #124**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to Your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that You have prepared. Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what You have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen. *(Time of silence for personal reflection)*

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

L: Peace be with you.

P: And also with you.

*Gloria Patri *“Glory Be to the Father”*

PH #579

Chancel Choir

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Lighting of Advent Wreath (the candle of Joy)

Jan Costello & Family

New Testament Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

Children’s Christmas Program

“A No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant”

*Hymn

“Who is He in Yonder Stall?”

RED #127

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Affirmation of Faith – *“Advent Statement of Faith”*

We are an Advent people, a people of hope. For us, Advent is a time of waiting, and so we wait. We wait for the coming of the One who is the fulfillment of God’s promise, the fulfillment of hope the declaration that we have been redeemed. Even so, we are not a naïve people. We know that the world in which we live will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow. We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist. We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives. But because we are an Advent people, we know that none of these things will win in the end. The Holy One is coming, to make holy once again all that was, is, and ever will be. And in our waiting and our hoping, we work and worship, pray and play, in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign in our lives and in our world, now and forever. Amen

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer

L: God of Mercy,

P: hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory

***Doxology**

PH #591

Prayer of Thanksgiving

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***Hymn**

“Tell Me the Story of Jesus”

RED #130

***Charge and Blessing**

Postlude

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Worship Leader: Pastor Ryan Edgecombe

Greeter/Usher: David Drake

Liturgist: Ron Sanert

Pianist/Organist: Emma Lou Denton

Bethany Edgecombe

Rich Ford

Julia Territo

****Please stand, if able***

CCLI License #2716138

Hymnals: PH-blue hard cover; Red-red hard cover; SF-small blue soft cover

*Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Illumination taken from *“The Presbyterian Outlook.”*

**Advent Affirmation of Faith by Rev. Rebecca Harrison

2024 Giving Deadline

Sunday, **December 29**, will be the **absolute last Sunday** for giving to Central Presbyterian Church to be included on the current year 2024 Giving Statement. Any contributions received later that week will not be deposited until January 2. Per IRS guidelines, any pledges deposited in the new year, will be shown on the 2025 Giving Statements.

*Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Illumination written by Pastor Ryan.