SERVICE OF WORSHIP FOR THE LORD’S DAY

**11:00 a.m. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 12, 2021**

*“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your*

*gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5*

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**PRELUDE** Away in a Manger Tammy Waldrop

Adult Handbell Choir

**INTROIT** A Processional for Advent Rachel Aarons

Chancel Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF ADORATION**

 **\*HYMN**  No. 357 *Tune:* LLANGLOFFAN

 The Days Are Surely Coming

 **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

**CONFESSION OF SIN**

Eternal God, the light of all our seeing: We come to you because we need tranquility and strength. So grant that our worship may beget in us calmness of spirit, wisdom of insight, depth of intuition, certainty about your grace, that we shall be made strong through the days to come. Save us from our selfishness and irascibility, from our pride and conceit. Forgive our sins and make our homes worthy of the Christ Child. As you shined that first Christmas in a dark generation and came to a strange and humble place, so shine on us in our darkness, come to us in our humble estate, that our hearts may rejoice because your Spirit has been born in us anew; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

 **\*GLORIA PATRI** No. 110

Love has come: a light in the darkness! Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.

See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises:

Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior! Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

**WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH**

 (Please sign and pass the Friendship Registers at this time.)

**INVITATION TO THE CHILDREN**

 **ANTHEM** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Richard Shephard

Come Thou, Redeemer of the Earth

Chancel Choir

**UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Above all in this Advent season, O God, may the light of the knowledge of your glory, which we have seen in the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord, stir us all to gratitude and devotion. He is the way and the truth and the life. O God, make that not only our belief but our conviction and experience; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Isaiah 12:2-6 Page 641

**NEW TESTAMENT LESSON** Luke 3:7-18 Page 60

**SERMON** “What to do While Waiting for Christmas” Dr. Williams

*“Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves,*

 *‘We have Abraham as our ancestor;’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones*

 *to raise up children to Abraham.” Luke 3:8*

**\*HYMN** No. 96 *Tune:* WINCHESTER NEW

######  On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

**THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** Margaret Allen Griffith

 **Presentation and Profession of Faith** Mabel Lane Griffith

 **\*The Apostles’ Creed** children of Jordan and Trapper Griffith

**Thanksgiving**

Minister:The Lord be with you.

 People: And also with you.

 Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

 People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**The Baptism**

**Response** Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign,

With this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

**Welcome**

 All: With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Maggie and Mae into Christ’s church to share with us in his ministry for we are all one in Christ.

 **THE** **PRAYERS**

 **\*HYMN** No. 163 *Tune:* ABERYSTWYTH

Wild and Lone the Prophet’s Voice

###### **\*BENEDICTION AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** No. 360

Christ is coming! Let creation from its groans and labor cease.

Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:

Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

**\*POSTLUDE** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers Paul Manz

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear; the evening is advancing,

and darker night is near. The bridegroom is arising and soon he will draw nigh.

Up, watch with expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

 **\***Congregation please stand.

**A SEASON OF GIVING**

**JOY GIFT OFFERING** is a mission offering received by congregations of the PCUSA. It is divided equally for the support of racial ethnic schools and colleges with covenant ties to the Presbyterian Church and by the Board of Pensions to supplement the income of very low-income retired church workers. The offering will be received on Sunday, December 19.

**THE GIVING TREE** First’s weekday Preschool has adopted a family from the Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center. The family has a six-year-old boy who wears a size 7 in clothing and is interested in action figures, crafts and building sets. Gift cards from Walmart, Target and Kroger for the mother are also appreciated. The Preschool is accepting wrapped gifts until December 17.

**FAMILY PROMISE** helps homeless children and their families in Chatham, Effingham, Bryan, and Liberty counties. Family Promise provides overnight accommodations, meals, clothing, and services for families who have recently lost their homes. The mission is to help families regain their independence while offering services and programs for new housing, employment and job training.