

SENDING

***Hymn** "Joy to the World" Hymnal #134

***Benediction**

***Congregational Response** "You Shall Go Out with Joy" Hymnal #80

*You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
The mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
There'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
Will clap, will clap their hands.
And all the trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands;
The trees of the field will clap their hands
And you'll go out with joy.*

***Postlude**

Serving Today

Greeters Esther and Ezra Codington

Liturgist Greg Weir

Coffee Host Mary-Margaret Allen

Welcome Table Nancy Harber

Staff

Pastor Rev. Sam Codington

Director of Music Ministry Joe Rodriguez

Director of Preschool Nancy McGeath

Spiritual Director Mary Elva Smith

Office Administrator Mary Lou Castillo

Media Technician Stephen Dichiera

Custodian Agustin Urueta

Sexton Robin Craig

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Faith Presbyterian Church

A family of Christ, welcoming all, worshiping God,
growing in the Spirit and joyously serving others.
Inclusive • Nurturing • Justice-Seeking



Pastor: Rev. Sam Codington

Please rise in body or spirit, where you see an asterisk. *

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 11, 2022 9:30 AM

GATHERING

Music for Meditation "Peace on Earth" Austin French
Gift of Dance - Mary-Margaret Allen, Karyn Lee, Claudia Dyson-Hightower

Welcome, Announcements & Greeting

Words for Preparation:

"Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry." Psalm 146:5-7.

Gathering Song

"Come and See"

*Come and see the glory of the Lord. Come behold the Lamb.
Come and know the mercy of the King, bowing down before Him.
For He is Lord above the heavens, Lord of all the earth.
Lord of all the angels, worthy to be served.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Choral Introit

"Holy Is the Lord"

F. Schubert

Call to Worship

Greg Weir

Leader: You are welcome to this house of prayer and joy.

All: We are hungry and thirsty for good news.

Leader: The God of Advent raises life in the wilderness and gathers exiles home.

All: We are ready and looking for a taste of new life!

***Hymn**

"People, Look East"

Hymnal #105

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Leader: Psychologists have shown that it only takes a *tenth* of a second for us to form an impression of a stranger. In other words, it only takes a tenth of a second for us to look at someone's face and determine a stereotype about who they are. With decisions happening *that* quickly, it is not hard to imagine why we might need this moment of confession. The prayer of confession is an opportunity to slow down. We take that tenth of a second and give it room to breathe. We reflect on the decisions that we've made this past week, and we ask for God's mercy to be in all of them. And without fail, God enters into the cracks of our lives, and we are made better for it. So, with that confidence, let us go to God in prayer:

Prayer of Confession

All: God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, to assume the best in others, to give the benefit of the doubt. A million times a day we could choose the better way, but so often we don't. Fear and greed kick in. Assumptions and insecurities take the wheel. Comparison and critique lead the charge. Forgive us for forgetting grace and mercy. Forgive us for forgetting that all belong to you. Give us the courage to love even bigger than before, and the wisdom to choose a better way. Amen.
(Silent Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Family of Faith, hear this good news: We who have chosen wrong, are given a second chance. We, who have lost our way, are welcomed into community. We, who feel alone, are seen, held, and known. This is the good news of the gospel.

All: No matter how many times we choose wrong or lose our way, God continues to be a God of second chances, community, and love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Response "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me" Hymnal #582
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (3x)
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

PROCLAIMING

Choir Anthem

Sermon on the Steps

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson (NRSV)

Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: For the word of God in scripture, for the word of God among us, for the word of God within us,

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

"What Brings You Joy"

Rev. Sam Codington

RESPONDING

*Hymn

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Hymnal #129

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*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. Amen.*

*Prayer of Dedication

All: God of joy and liberation, you make a way in the desert. You raise life in dried out places. We trust you with the way ahead, and we entrust ourselves to you. Use us for healing and hope, we pray, amen.