



Desert Flowers Blooming at Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, New Mexico

FIRST 
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

The Third Sunday
of Advent
Sunday, December 11, 2022
10:30 A.M.

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Wyatt & Haley Minigh

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,”

and the church says, “Be faithful.”

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for hope, peace, and joy.

Come now, O child of Mary.

Come now, O Prince of Joy.

As the candles are lit, all sing:

Come now, O Prince of Joy; make us one body.

Come, O Lord Jesus; reconcile all people. (Hymn 103)

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Andi Wallace

May God be with you in worship here.

May God be with you in worship there.

Children may depart the sanctuary with their teacher for Worship & Wonder. They will return to the sanctuary before communion.

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Isa. 35:1, 4

Let the desert rejoice and the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us. Let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich. Sometimes we are the ones with privilege, ignoring and harming those you would lift up. Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (Hymn 88)

VENI EMMANUEL

*O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

POURING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

Remember your baptism and be thankful!

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem. There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow. Beloved, we are forgiven! **Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

*GLORIA PATRI

GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Since we have been reconciled to God, let us also be reconciled to one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

*SUNG RESPONSE (Hymn 134)

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;

Let every heart prepare him room,

And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders of his love.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Isa 35:1-10

Lord God, in this dry and dusty place, pour out the power of your Spirit, so you're your Word may blossom in our lives; through Jesus Christ, our way in the wilderness. **Amen.**

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 1:39-56

The Gospel of the Lord. **May Jesus Christ be praised.**

SERMON

“You Say You Want a Revolution?”

Rev. Matt Curry

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from A Brief Statement of Faith

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. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised this Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Christmas Baskets

Doug Black

THE EUCHARIST

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

MUSIC FOR THE OFFERING

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

*THE DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest!

THE 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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All who seek God are invited to the table, regardless of church affiliation or any other condition or identity. You may take communion by taking a small piece of bread and dipping it in the cup. Pre-packaged elements are also available in baskets for a contact-free option.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mighty God, holy is your name. We thank you for gathering us at your table and feeding us with the bread of life. As we leave this table to go to the many places where you call us, send your Spirit to accompany us, so that we may share in your magnificent work: lifting up those who are laid low, showing mercy to all in need of human kindness, and feeding the bodies and hearts of all those who are hungry. Amen.

THE SENDING

*HYMN 99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

MORNING SONG

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

**Rise in body or spirit*

LEADING OUR WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: *Rev. Matt Curry*

Liturgist: *Janice Odom*

Communion Servers: *Suzanne Guyer & Creda Heffelfinger*

The Life of the Church

Christmas Baskets will be packed this Saturday, December 17 at 9:00am in Fellowship Hall. We will be delivering them after worship next Sunday. See the insert in today's bulletin for complete information on this important ministry of our church.

The Longest Night Service will be held Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00pm. This service is a time to acknowledge the grief, pain, and struggles many of us bear that can seem worse this time of year. This time of prayer, song, candlelighting, and communion, is an opportunity to share the gift of hope we find in community with one another

Hearing Assistance Devices are available. Please see an usher if you would like to use one.



When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our Church — past, present and future — who point us to God.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

About Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally considered a respite of joy in an otherwise penitential season. This is symbolized in our Advent wreath with a pink candle, which stands out among the dark purple of the other weeks. The day gets its name from the Latin word Gaudete which means “rejoice.”

“Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.” -Philippians 4:4





First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.



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Kevin Parker, Staff Accountant
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Emmy Voyles, Nursery Care Provider