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**December 11th, 2022**

**Third Sunday In Advent**

***JOY***

**THE APPROACH**

**Musical Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Musical Introit - # 112** "Prepare the way of the Lord"

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord, and all people will see the salvation of our God.

**Call to Worship**

**Hymn #110 –** “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,

born to set thy people free;

from our fears and sins release us;

let us find our rest in thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,

hope of all the world thou art,

dear desire of every nation,

joy of every longing heart.

2 Born thy people to deliver;

born a child and yet a king;

born to reign in us forever;

now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit

rule in all our hearts alone;

by thine all-sufficient merit

raise us to thy gracious throne.

**Prayer of Adoration, Confession and Lord’s Prayer**

# Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

# Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Passing the Peace**

**Lighting of the Advent Candle: PEACE**

Reader 1: We are people of joy.

Reader 2: God causes flowers to bloom in the desert; the wilderness is glad and breaks into song.

**People: We open our eyes and we are surprised by joy in**

**our lives!**

Reader 1: The third candle of Advent reminds us that we are called to live as people of joy.

Reader 2: We light this candle, recalling moments of laughter, great beauty and deep faith.

*(Light the candle of joy)*

Reader 1: Let us pray:

**People: Holy One, regardless of what happens in our lives or in our world, may we reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of joy and life in our community. Amen.**

**Hymn: #119 -** “Hope is A Star” vs. 1-3

1 HOPE is a star that shines in the night,

leading us on till the morning is bright

Chorus When God is a child

There’s joy in our song.

The last shall be first

and the weak shall be strong,

and none shall be afraid.

2 PEACE is a ribbon that circles the earth,

giving a promise of safety and worth.

3 JOY is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

**Children’s Time**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayer of Illumination**

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Epistle Lesson:   James 5:7-10

**Gloria Patri**

# 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.

Gospel Reading:  Luke 1:46-55

**Anthem –** Choir

**Sermon:** *“Joy Within, Joy Without!”*

**Hymn: #123 -** “My soul gives glory to my God” vs 1,2,4,5

1. My soul gives glory to my God.

My soul pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness

in many marvelous ways.

1. My God had done great things for me;

yes, holy is this name.

All people will declare me blessed,

and blessings they shall claim.

4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones,

promotes the insecure,

leaves hungry spirits satisfied;

the rich seem suddenly poor.

5. Praise God, whose loving covenant

support those in distress,

remembering past promises

with present faithfulness.

**Reaffirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed – Please rise**

# I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn: #120** - “Lo! Christ comes with clouds” vs. 1,3,4

1 Lo! Christ comes with clouds descending,

Lamb of God for sinners slain;

thousand thousand saints attending

swell the Lord’s triumphant train.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

God appears on earth to reign.

3 Now redemption, long awaited,

see in glorious life appear!

All God’s creatures freed from groaning,

sounds of liberation hear:

Hallelujah, hallilujah, hallelujah!

See the day of God appear.

4 Evermore let all adore thee,

high on thine eternal throne;

crowns and empires fall before thee:

thou shalt reign and thou alone.

Come , Lord Jesus; come Lord Jesus;

come Lord Jesus!

Claim all glory for thine own.

**Benediction**

**Coral Response: Threefold Amen**

**Recessional**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

All are welcome at First Presbyterian Church. We hope you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve one another.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEETINGS THIS WEEK:**

* The Session meeting scheduled for today has been moved to next Sun., Dec. 18th, after service at 12:15 p.m.

**This evening:** Bethel Church, Pictou Landing will host their Tree Lighting and Open House at 6p.m. Everyone welcome. Serving hot chocolate and apple cider.

**December 17th, 2022 - 9:30am 1:30 p.m.** – “Last Minute Christmas Craft Sale” at Bethel Church Hall, Pictou Landing. Free will admission to be donated to the Pictou County Fuel Fund.

The annual Christmas Memory Tree fundraiser is taking place again this year. The forms are available inside the sanctuary. **Deadline for requests will be December 18th.** If you would like to donate a ball(s), fill out the form and leave it, along with your donation, in the collection baskets. (To lessen the chance of missing a name(s), please limit your requests to 5 per form.) The names of those remembered and the donors will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The Circle of Friends would like to thank everyone who supported the Soup and Dessert take out last week. We raised $1295.00. The team would also like to thank Marilyn for coordinating this very successful event!

The poinsettias in the sanctuary have been placed by Reverend Andrew, Bridget and Natalie in loving memory of Chrissie and Johnny A. MacMillan, Raymond and Gloria Sheehan, Rannie MacDonald and Grandpa Bob Caughey.

The floral arrangement in the sanctuary is placed in loving memory of Doug MacLeod by his family. The congregation extends our sincere condolences to Doug’s family and friends.

Birthday greetings are sent to Jack Marshall who will celebrate his birthday, Tuesday, Dec. 13th. Happy Birthday Jack!

**Pictou County Food Bank** – As you know, with costs of everything rising due to inflation, increasing costs of fuel to get to work or heat homes, the Food Banks in our region are experiencing a huge increase in numbers of those seeking assistance, in some cases, by as much as 25%. Understandably donations are currently low. If you are able to contribute, items such as peanut butter, pasta, pasta sauces, canned fish and meats, cereals, personal hygiene and paper products

are very useful items. Cash donations allow the food bank to purchase food and take advantage of sales. Any donations welcome.

We are participating in the “Tree of Kindness” project again this year. If possible, we will fill 3 baskets. The baskets will be delivered to the Dept. of Community Services Dec. 19th to distribute to single, disabled, Income Assistance clients. Please take a tag(s) from the tree, purchase then place in the baskets under the tree. The gifts will be gathered during the 4 Sundays of Advent. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Fullerton 902 -754-2142. **Suggested items for the baskets:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal Hygiene:**  Towels (bath, hand towels, facecloths)  Toothbrush  Toothpaste  Deodorant  Razors  Shave lotion  Shampoo  Hand soap; Body wash  Kleenex  Toilet tissue | **Household:**  Dish cloths; tea towels  Dish soap  Disinfecting wipes  Manual can opener  Paper towel  Laundry soap  **Useful items:**  Pens  Pocket calendars | **Treats:**  Hot chocolate  Boxes of chocolates  Candy  Cookies  **Warm items:**  Hats  Socks  Gloves |

**Dec. 23rd – 7:00 p.m. at First Church** – Musique Royale will present Handel’s Messiah. Annually, it is the single most popular classical music presentation performed worldwide. British conductor Harry Castle will lead an ensemble of historical performance specialists, both orchestra and vocalists, Tickets are  $30 at the door, or $25 in advance (students $10) by contacting the church office or by visiting [www.musiqueroyale.com](http://www.musiqueroyale.com),   A highlight of this concert will be a sing-along Hallelujah Chorus where audience members can join in the singing, with scores provided, with a rehearsal 30 minutes before the performance!

**\*\***Over the years we have been fortunate to have members of the congregation supply paper products and sidewalk salt. Our supplies are getting low. If you can contribute to any of these items, it would be appreciated.

**VOLUNTEER SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS**

**Scripture reader and Lighting the Candle today**: Clarice Campbell

**Ushers**: Sara Fullerton and Brent MacQuarrie

**Early Christian Educators**: Lynne Ann and Lois MacLellan

**Christmas Eve** – We still need 2 readers for the Christmas Eve Service. If you’re available, please contact Rev. Andrew or contact the office.

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Minister: Rev. Andrew MacDonald (c) 902-331-0322

Organist: Clare Grieves

Office hours: Tues. to Fri. – 10 -1pm

Rev. MacDonaldoffice hours -Tues. to Thurs. 10-2 or by appointment

**Mission Statement:** But he’s already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It’s quite simple. Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don’t take yourself too seriously – take God seriously. Micah 6: 8-The Message