A picture containing object, candle, candelabrum

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**December 15th, 2024**

**Third Sunday In Advent**

***Joy***

**THE APPROACH**

**\*\*Please Rise\*\***

**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*\*Entry of the Bible**

**\*\*Musical Introit - #124** "*People In Darkness*" *vs. 4*

4 People in sadness are trying to sing.

Come, come, come Jesus Christ.

Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring.

Come, Lord Jesus Christ.

These days of adventure when all people wait

are days for the advent of JOY.

**Call To Worship**

**\*\*Hymn #126 –** “On Jordan’s Bank”

1 On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry

announces that the Lord is nigh;

awake and hearken, for he brings

glad tidings of the King of kings.

2 Then cleansed be every beast from sin;

make straight the way for God within;

prepare we in our hearts a home

where such a mighty guest may come.

3 For thou art salvation, Lord,

our refuge and our great reward;

without thy grace, we waste away,

like flowers that wither and decay.

4 To heal the sick, stretch out thy hand,

and bid the fallen sinner stand;

shine forth and let thy light restore

earth’s own true loveliness once more.

5 All praise, eternal Son, to thee,

whose advent sets thy people free,

whom, with the Father, we adore,

and Holy Spirit, evermore.

**Prayers of Approach and the 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 the Advent Candle: JOY-** Sunday School

**One:** As we prepare for Christ’s coming, we remember your calling to be filled with joy.

**All: We come knowing that our actions can help alleviate the burdens of others.**

**One:** We light the third candle of Advent, a symbol of joy that uplifts the spirit. ***(Light the candle of joy)***

**One:** May the warmth and brightness of this candle encourage us to act with compassion and courage.

**All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to being people of joy and justice. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.**

**\*\*Advent Hymn: #119** “Hope is A Star” Vs. 1, 2, 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**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**First Lesson:** Isaiah 12:2-6

**Epistle Lesson:**   Philippians 4:4-7

**\*\*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 Lesson:**  Luke 3:7-18

**ANTHEM**

**Sermon:** “Joy!”

**\*\*Reaffirmation of Faith- Apostles Creed**

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.

**\*\*Hymn: #138 -** “While Shepherds watched” vs 1-3,6

1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

all seated on the ground,

the angel of the Lord came down,

and glory shone around.

2 Fear not said he, for mighty dread

had seized their troubled mind;

Glad tidings of great joy I bring

to you, all humankind.

3 To you, in David’s town, this day

is born of David’s line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,

and this shall be the sign:

6 All glory be to God on high,

and to the earth be peace;

good will henceforth from heaven to earth

begin, and never cease!

**Call to the Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Prayers of the People- The People Respond**

**ONE:** Generous God

**ALL: Send joy to the world again!**

**\*\*Hymn: #125 -** *“People look east” 1-3,5*

1 People, look east. The time is near

of the crowning of the year.

Make your house fair as you are able:

trim the hearth and set the table.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the guest is on the way.

2 Furrows, be glad; though earth is bare,

one more seed is planted there:

give up your strength, the seed to nourish,

that in course the flower may flourish.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the rose is on your way.

3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,

guard the nest that must be filled.

Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the bird is on the way.

5 Angels, announce when shouts of mirth

Christ who brings new life to earth.

Set every peak and valley humming

with the word, the Lord is coming.

People, look east and sing today:

Love the Lord is on the way.

**Sunday School Program**

**\*\*Benediction**

**\*\*Choral Response:**

**\*\*Recessional**

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**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.

A heart shaped stone with a white flower next to it

Description automatically generatedAn in-memorium donation has been received in loving memory of Pamela Smith Flanagan from her mother Betty Smith and family.

The bulletin today is sponsored in loving memory of Graham Fraser by Phoebe and family.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**MEETINGS:** There are no meetings this week.

**Today – Third Sunday of Advent – 10:30-10:55 a.m.** – Please join us for coffee and refreshments before today’s service while we enjoy special music from Shaun McLean. Join us if you can! There will be coffee time after service today as well.

**Tues., Dec. 17th, River Run Café, 151 Provost St., New Glasgow, 4:00 p.m.** - “Holidays & Grief” – The Northern Zone Grief Team will host Serena Lewis and Jude Lightfoot for a time of connection, conversation and community. Pre-registration not required but requested: call 902-301-9754. Refreshments provided.

**NOTICE RE COLLECTION PLATES**: Due to the ongoing rise in cases of COVID in the county, we have resumed the process we previously had in place with respect to the weekly collection. Collection plates will be located at the back and front of the sanctuary for your safety.

**SCRIPTURE READERS & USHERS:**

**Reader:** Brent MacQuarrie

**Ushers**: Main Door (Office) – Albert & Theresa Van de Pol

James St. – Ruth-Anne MacIntosh

MacLean St. (Main Entrance steps) – Ellen Jardine

**EARLY CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS:** Lynne Ann & Lois MacLellan

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