

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent candle: see insert

Hymn #115: Hope is a Star (vs 3)

Responsive Call to Worship

L: In worship, we remember that God is with us.

P: God is with us in joy and in sorrow.

L: In Jesus Christ, God reshapes our lives, past, present and future.

P: We wait with God for something new to emerge.

L: In this season, we await the birth of Jesus.

P: We wait in expectation, preparing to rejoice in Jesus' name.

Opening Hymn #159: Oh come, all ye faithful (vs 1, 4 & 5)

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Family Focus/Children's Time

Hymn #136: The First Nowell (verses 1 & 2)

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, ² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, ³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead

of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. ⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. ¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my whole being shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Luke 1:46b-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favour on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely, and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the

coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

John 1:6-8, 19-28

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” ²¹And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” ²²Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” ²³He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’” as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, “Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?” ²⁶John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal.” ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Hymn #148: It came upon a midnight clear (vs 1, 2 & 5)

Message

Hymn #139: Hark! the herald angels sing (all 3 verses)

Mission Moment

Doxology #79: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Offertory Prayer

Music Ministry

Prayers of the People and Lord’s Prayer (debt/debtors)

Hymn #161: What child is this? (all 3 verses)

Benediction

Hymn #153: Joy to the world (all 4 verses)

Welcome To Lucknow Presbyterian Church

December 17, 2023

Worship Leader: Annette Procnier

Third Sunday of Advent



Announcements

- Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. Thanks to Annette for leading the service.
- Friday December 29: Youth Group, 5-7 p.m

Upcoming Services:

- Dec. 24 at 7 pm: Combined Christmas Eve service at Lucknow PC led by Mary Jane Bisset (**no morning service**)
- Dec. 31 at 10 am: combined service at South Kinloss PC led by Annette Procnier
- Jan. 7, 14, 21 & 28: Rev. Kathy Fraser