

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN: 244 (Red Hymnal) *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: The nights are long and the days are short,

Many: And so we wait for Jesus.

One: The heavens are trembling with anticipation,

Many: And so we wait for Jesus.

One: Our redemption is drawing near,

Many: And so we wait for Jesus.

All: Let us put our hope in God as we prepare to welcome the birth of new life once more.

ANTHEM: *We Wait for Thee*

Johnson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - HOPE

Response: Faithful God, out of death you bring life. Renew us in hope, that we may be alert to the burgeoning of Christ's advent among us. God of promise, God of hope, into our darkness come.

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read in unison.)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Creator God, you made the heavens and the earth. You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire, caused the stars to shine and the world to turn. Life springs up wherever your breath moves. In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair. You sent your Spirit to enliven our hope and guide us on the way. Now we wait in anxious times for the world to be made new. Move in us and in all your creation to bring forth new life, while we wait with hope in your grace and goodness. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain in your seat and wave to your neighbors.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Redeeming God, we confess that waiting is difficult when the world around us is on edge. We are impatient with each other, waiting for someone to make a difference. We are impatient with you, O God, waiting for a sign that things will improve. Forgive us, O God. Turn our hearts to you again and again, and show us how to act in hope for Jesus' sake.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HYMN: 245 (Red Hymnal)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of grace, you speak words of hope in the midst of anxious times. Send your Holy Spirit to open our ears to that hope. Give us wisdom to read our own times through the lens of your grace, and find comfort and courage through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 13:24-37

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *Advent Begins*

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

* HYMN: 8 (Blue Hymnal) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (see insert)

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 251 (Red Hymnal) *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of hope, we offer you our gifts, knowing you can do with them more than we can ask or imagine. Bless what we offer as tangible signs of your love at work in a world on edge, and as symbols of the hope we share in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Friend. Amen.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

Dr. Gary de Sesa

Dr. Natalie Naylor

Robert Gilmore

Pastor

Director, Ministry of Music

Clerk of Session

Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Refreshments Host for today is Mary Matos.

The Flowers today are given to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones by the Barbara Wackenhut Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Sun, Dec. 10

5:30 PM Christmas Dinner

Wed, Dec. 13

7 PM Bible Study Via Zoom

Sun, Dec. 24

5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service (evening only; no morning service)

Tues, Jan. 23

3:30 PM Session Meeting

Sun, Jan. 28

11:15 PM RPC Annual Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Katie Zarghami

Emily Dyer

Jojo Gencorelli

Richard and Lynn Cardozo

Emma Steck

Nora Shimmel

Dawn and John de Sesa

Rev. Stark Jones

Joyce Zanchelli

Eddie Balsamo

Sam Rizzo

Charlie Barba

The Catalanello Family

Graziella Girardi

Sheemeza Ali

Paul Whelan and Family

Nico Barley

Emmie Shoch

Dr. Ralph & Judy Mastrangelo

John Nistico

Jeff Lovering

Regina Maria

Rhonda Liss

Paula Liscio

Jennifer Galluzzo

The Stallone Family

Elizabeth Bienz

Ray Peres

Jennifer Monda

Jeanette Schramm

All victims, hostages and their families in the Israeli conflict.
We pray for peace in the Middle East.

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence—² as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! ³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. ⁴ From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. ⁵ You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. ⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. ⁷ There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. ⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. ⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Second Reading

Mark 13:24-37

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²⁴ “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, ²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ “Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the

doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

ANTHEM

“We Wait For Thee”

– Johnson

Dark is the night and empty the sky, As the ground lies still and cold.
We pause in solemn anticipation, As we wait for the promise of old.

Come, thou Prince of Peace; Come, great Lord of lords;
Come, set Your people free. Come, Desire of the nations, come,
With joy and hope we wait for Thee.

Revive our hearts and renew our minds,
Come and bring us peace to endure.
Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Emanuel, God with us!

Come, thou Prince of Peace; Come great Lord of lords;
Come, set your people free. Come, Desire of the nations, come,
With joy and hope we wait for Thee,
With joy and hope we wait for Thee!

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen.