

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 17, 2023

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN: 15 (Blue Hymnal) *Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers*

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Now is the time to get ready:

Many: Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

One: Now is the time to be changed:

Many: Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

One: Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

All: We will worship God in humble expectation.

ANTHEM: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Lewis

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Response: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the LORD, for God has done gloriously!

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

PRAYER OF ADORATION

God of Light and Love, we rejoice in your presence this day, for you look kindly on us, no matter how we came to be here. You bring order from chaos, and call for justice for the vulnerable. You turn weeping into laughter, promising life made new. You redeem all that appears lost, giving each one a path and purpose. And so we come to you in joy, trusting you to bring peace and hope into these uncertain times. Receive our worship this day as we anticipate the difference your gifts will make to us. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Generous God, we confess that our concerns are narrow, focused mostly on our own lives. Opportunities to say thanks or to offer encouragement slip by. Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out. Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season. Turn our hearts back to you, and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HYMN: 19 (Blue Hymnal) *To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of wisdom, shine the light of your truth on us as we listen for your Word, speaking in the Scriptures. Open our hearts to receive that Word which can change our minds and our lives through the grace of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *The Joy of Advent* Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

* HYMN: 20 (Blue Hymnal) *Watchman, Tell Us of the Night*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION
(Response to *Come to us, Christ Jesus; And bring us joy.*)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

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 justice and joy, we bring our gifts to you in gratitude for your unfailing goodness to us. Bless these gifts and use them to create justice and bring joy into the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

* HYMN: 40 (Blue Hymnal) *Joy to the World!*

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 Cathy Shimmel.

The Poinsettias are available for ordering, please see the green insert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Wed, Dec. 13

7 PM

Bible Study Via Zoom, ch. 8-9

Sun, Dec. 24

5:30 PM

Christmas Eve Service (evening only; no morning service)

Fri, Jan. 5

Annual Report submissions due

Tues, Jan. 23

3:30 PM

Session Meeting

Sun, Jan. 28

11:15 PM

RPC Annual Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Katie Zarghami

Jojo Gencorelli

Emma Steck

Dawn and John de Sesa

Joyce Zanchelli

Sam Rizzo

The Catalanello Family

Sheemeza Ali

Nico Barley

Dr. Ralph & Judy Mastrangelo

Jeff Lovering

Rhonda Liss

Jennifer Galluzzo

Elizabeth Bienz

Jennifer Monda

Emily Dyer

Richard and Lynn Cardozo

Nora Shimmel

Rev. Stark Jones

Eddie Balsamo

Charlie Barba

Graziella Girardi

Paul Whelan and Family

Emmie Shoch

John Nistico

Regina Maria

Paula Liscio

The Stallone Family

Ray Peres

Jeanette Schramm

All victims, hostages and their families in the Israeli conflict.

We pray for peace in the Middle East.

More December Birthdays

12/1 Jojo Gencorelli

12/12 Mary Matos

12/28 Ira Cooper

First Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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 favor 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.

Second Reading

John 1:6-8, 19-28 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁶There was a man sent from God whose name was John.⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah."²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out

in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

ANTHEM

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

- Lewis

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 earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

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 glorious throne.
Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free.

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.