

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN: 278 (Red Hymnal) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Arise, shine: for your light has come!

Many: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

One: Lift up your eyes and look around!

Many: We shall see and be radiant; our hearts shall rejoice.

One: For the Lord will be our everlasting light and our glory!

All: And so we worship God in humble expectation.

* HYMN: 281 (Red Hymnal) *What Child Is This?*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of light and life, we praise you for the amazing depth of your creation and the mysteries of the galaxies. We praise you for the wonders of the earth around us and for the Word made flesh in the child born in Bethlehem. Open our hearts and minds in this time of worship. Just as you led the magi by the star, lead us by your Spirit beyond the limits of this world's expectations, to the life where you make all things new through Christ, our Morning Star. Amen.

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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of mercy and loving-kindness, you sent Christ among us to be the light of the world and reveal your love to all people. Yet our sins hide the brightness of your light that should shine through us. Forgive us for wasting our gifts, ignoring cries for justice, and harming the earth you love. In your mercy, cleanse us and make us new.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM: *With the Sound of Joyous Singing* Martin

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of light and life, we seek your wisdom to guide us into this new year. Open our ears to your Word calling to us. Open our eyes to your Word at work in the world. Open our hearts to renew our commitment to follow Christ, your living Word. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2:22-40

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE *Light Bulb* Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

* HYMN: 288 (Red Hymnal) *We Three Kings*

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

(Response to *Our hearts kneel before you, O God; Receive our humble prayers.*)

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 majesty and mystery, we bring our gifts to you, grateful that you are always with us. We do not know what the year ahead will hold, but your love shines like a star to guide us. Bless these gifts that they may keep the light of Christ shining through the church to embrace the world you love. Amen.

* HYMN: 258 (Red Hymnal) *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

CHARGE AND BLESSING

DISMISSAL *Go Now in Peace*

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth	Pastor
Dr. Gary de Sesa	Director, Ministry of Music
Dr. Natalie Naylor	Clerk of Session
Robert Gilmore	Treasurer

Kita de Sesa is our Soprano soloist.

Refreshments Host for today is Natalie Naylor.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Wed, Jan. 3	7 PM	Bible Study Via Zoom
Fri, Jan. 5		Annual Report submissions due
Wed, Jan. 17	7 PM	Bible Study Via Zoom
Tues, Jan. 23	3:30 PM	Session Meeting
Sun, Jan. 28	11:15 AM	RPC Annual Meeting
Wed, Jan. 31	7 PM	Bible Study Via Zoom

Please be advised:

The Annual Meeting of the Roslyn Presbyterian Church and Congregation will take place on Sunday, Jan. 28 at 11:15 AM.

January Birthdays

1/8	Helen Lockman
1/19	Alexander Shimmel

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 61:10-62:3

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

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. ⁶² For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn and her salvation like a burning torch. ² The nations shall see your vindication and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³ You shall be a beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Second Reading

Luke 2:22-40

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word, ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be

revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too." ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.

ANTHEM

"With the Sound of Joyous Singing"

- Martin

With the sound of joyous singing, break the silence of the night,
for a new day Christ is bringing. Lo, new hope is shining bright.
Let the voice of music ever sound the peace and joy He brings.
Let our song be silenced never. Rise and greet the newborn King.
With the sound of joyous singing, sound the peace and joy He brings.
Let the sound of joyous singing join with angels shouting praise.
Alleluia, sing this day of days. Arise your light is beaming.
Hope is born, let earth rejoice.
Christ has come, all hearts redeeming. Let all make a joyful noise.
With the sound of joyous singing, lift your praise with heart and voice.

With the sound of joyous singing, come announce the end of strife.
Christ has come to bring us life. Offer songs of glad thanksgiving.
Give to God your adoration, praise the Lord, let voices ring.
With the sound of joyous singing, come and praise the new born King!