

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 11, 2022

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: The light shines in the darkness.

Many: We come to worship, seeking the joy Mary sang to welcome her savior.

One: Source of light, shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

All: Renew in us the joy of our salvation.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – JOY

One: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Many: We are easily distracted by the darkness of despair or pessimism.

All: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your life-giving joy.

* HYMN: (Insert) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, vs 3*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Creator God, Maker of heaven and earth, with the sea and the

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

stars, and everything in between, we praise you for the wonders of this world and beyond it. You set all creation in relationships both fruitful and fragile. You make deserts bloom and refresh the earth with seasonal rain. With your care for the vulnerable in our hearts, we praise you with joyful song this day. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Gracious Judge, we look around us and we are not proud of what we see. People criticize each other and listen only to those who agree with them. We grumble and think the past holds the solutions, forgetting its inequities and iniquities. We are impatient for things to improve but we do not want to change our ways. Forgive us for sharing in the unhappy mood of our times, and renew in us the joy and gratitude we once knew for your gifts to us in Christ Jesus.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM: *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus* Lewis

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of justice and joy, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 35:1-10

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 11:2-11

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

MESSAGE *God's Joy*

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

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

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION
(Response to *God who makes all things new: **Renew our life together.***)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 270 (Red Hymnal) *Joy to the World!*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, our Judge and our Joy, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that joy will blossom for people depleted by challenges, and places overwhelmed by scarce resources. Be their justice and their joy, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* 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.

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.

Cathy Shimmel will be assisting in the service.

The Flowers today are given by Gary & Kita de Sesa to the glory of God.

Refreshments Host today is Maya Leibfreid.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Emma Steck
Eddie Balsamo
The Mastrangelo Family
Paula Liscio
The Stallone Family
Merritt Randall
Jeff Lovering
Marie Idone
Richard and Lynn Cardozo
Frank Gencorelli
The Muoio Family

Dawn and John de Sesa
Rev. Stark Jones
Emily & Dwight Dyer
Rhonda Liss
Sam Rizzo
Charlie Barba
Edith Van Raalte
John Nistico
Graziella Girardi
Sheemeza Ali
The Galluzzo Family

Families of victims in Ukraine and all the Ukrainian refugees
All who are struggling due to the Coronavirus outbreak

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Dates

Tues, Dec. 13	2:30 PM	Rescheduled Session Meeting
Wed, Dec. 14	10 AM	Bible Study In Person
Tues, Dec. 20	7 PM	Whole Church Book Club via Zoom
Sat, Dec 24	5:30 PM	Christmas Eve Service

Whole Church Book Club – *Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*, by Joan S. Gray
Meetings are every 2 weeks at 7pm via Zoom. Please read Chapters 7 and 8 for next meeting, Dec. 20.

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Second Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the

one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

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.