

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* HYMN: 12 (Blue Hymnal) *People, Look East*

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: The light shines in the darkness.

Many: We come to worship, seeking the love born among us in Christ Jesus.

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 – LOVE

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

Many: We are easily distracted by the darkness of isolation and fear.

One: Shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

All: Renew our trust in your undying love.

* HYMN: (Insert) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, vs 4*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Emmanuel, God with us, we praise you for your presence

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

throughout the amazing universe you have made. The shining stars sing your praise which echoes in the depth of space. The smallest snowflake and a baby's tiny fingers reflect your intricate love for the details of each and every life. In Jesus Christ, you were born among us, one of a kind, to show us how your great love is lived out day by day. Inspire us with your loving Spirit as we move through Advent toward Christmas Day, so that our celebrations will share the presence of your love, made flesh in Jesus, with those who need it most. May we live the praise we offer to you, Emmanuel, God with us, now and evermore. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Lord of love, we confess we sometimes find your love daunting. You called Joseph to honor his love for Mary, even when custom called him to break his engagement. We confess custom has a hold on us too, and challenging expectations for love's sake makes us nervous. You call us to love our neighbor, but we resist your call if our neighbors annoy us. You call us to love our enemies too, but that seems impossible in these contentious times. Forgive us for loving only in the safest situations. Dare us to love as Jesus loved so he will be born again in us.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM: *The Light, The Love*

Artman

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of life and love, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open your saying to the church through Christ, your Love Incarnate. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *The Love of God* Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth

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

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION
(Response to *Jesus, Lord of love: We open our hearts to you.*)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 256 (Red Hymnal) *Love Has Come!*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God, our Love and our Life, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that love will embrace people who feel lost and alone in this season, and places fearing they will be overlooked among so much need. Be their love and their life, 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

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.

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

Refreshments Host today is Cathy Shimmel.

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

Paul Whelan and 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

Joyce Zanchelli

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Dates

Tues, Dec. 20 7 PM Whole Church Book Club via Zoom

Sat, Dec. 24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sun, Dec. 25 10 AM Online Worship ONLY –
NO IN PERSON WORSHIP

Sun, Jan. 1 10 AM Special Hymn Sing Service

Sun, Jan. 29 11:15 AM RPC Annual Mtg – Luncheon following

**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 7:10-16

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Second Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

ANTHEM
“The Light, The Love”

- Artman

The Light of the Lord surrounds us, ev’ry one;
The Glory of His presence shines brighter than the sun!
He may shine within us and keep us from sin;
If we but ask His blessing, and let Him dwell within!
His mercy and compassion are with us on our way!
His love is like a flame, eternal and pure;
It may bring us blessed joy, and make salvation sure!
Wherever we may wander, however dark the night,
Our precious Lord is near us, to guide our steps aright!
For He is watching o’er us, where’er we may be,
That we may know His Light and Love, unto eternity!

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.