

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 15, 2024

10:00 AM

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

Many: Let us sing with loud shout of praises!

One: God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you with love.

Many: We will rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!

One: With joy, draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship.

All: God is our salvation; we will trust and have no fear.

ANTHEM: *Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?*

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Leader: Joy is the celebration given by God.

People: Joy is the celebration at the birth of the Christ Child.

Leader: Joy is the celebration when the angels sing "Glory to God in the highest."

People: We celebrate the joy of Christ coming again.

(The candle is lit.) Leader: Let us pray:

People: Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your life-giving joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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

* HYMN: 3 (Blue Hymnal) *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of joy you are our strength and our song. You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side. You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and accompany those who walk alone. Through your great love and mercy, you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be. We will trust in you and not be afraid. With joy, we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power to those near and far as our Creating Father, the redeeming Christ and guiding Holy Spirit.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: All knowing God, we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it elsewhere. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires. In search of love, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honorable, just, and pleasing in your sight. Amen.

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* HYMN: 10 (Blue Hymnal) *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of truth and wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit to teach us through the scriptures, read and interpreted this day. Lead us to understand your truth more fully, and our hearts to live out your wisdom in the example of Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 3:7-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE

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 *Generous God: **Send joy to the world again.***)

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

* HYMN: 90 (Red Hymnal) *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

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

Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the light of Christ into lives where Jesus can turn despair into joy. 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 today is Cathy Shimmel.

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. 15

5 PM Christmas Dinner, Carol Singing

Tues, Dec. 24

5 PM Christmas Eve Service

Sat, Jan. 4

2 PM Emily Dyer Memorial

Sun, Jan. 26

11 AM Annual Meeting

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Family of Emily Dyer

Emma Steck

Helen Lockman

Cynthia Randall

Dawn and John de Sesa

Joyce Zanchelli

Sam Rizzo

Graziella Girardi

Emmie Shoch

Jeff Lovering

Dr. Ralph & Judy Mastrangelo & Family

John Nistico

Regina Maria

Elizabeth Bienz

Ray Peres

Jay Sikserz

Blake and Megan Stevason

Marco Martufi

Nico Barley

Mike Honovich

Chris Foti

Gerry Catalanello

Jenn Gallagher

Sylvia McAdams

Richie Miranda

Dennis Prager

Nora Shimmel

Wang Jin Pen

Aldin Monroe

Natalia Gorelova

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

We pray for peace in the Middle East.

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion; shout aloud, Israel! Be glad and rejoice with all your heart, Daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The Lord has taken away your punishment, he has turned back your enemy. The Lord, the King of Israel, is with you; never again will you fear any harm. ¹⁶ On that day they will say to Jerusalem, “Do not fear, Zion; do not let your hands hang limp. ¹⁷ The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.” ¹⁸ “I will remove from you all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals, which is a burden and reproach for you. ¹⁹ At that time I will deal with all who oppressed you. I will rescue the lame; I will gather the exiles. I will give them praise and honor in every land where they have suffered shame. ²⁰ At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes,” says the Lord.

Second Reading

Luke 3:7-18

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁷ John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. ⁹ The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰ “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. ¹¹ John answered, “Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same.” ¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” ¹³ “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. ¹⁴ Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.” ¹⁵ The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than

I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” ¹⁸ And with many other words John exhorted the people and proclaimed the good news to them

ANTHEM

“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?”

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In the quiet of the night, or in morning’s early light,
is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you hear an angel sing?
Will your own hosannas ring?
Is your heart prepared for a King?
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth.
Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings peace,
who brings peace by His birth.
Can you see the shining star?
Does it call you from afar?
Is your heart prepared for a King?
Will you watch? Will you pray? Is your heart prepared,
Is your heart prepared for a King?

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.