

ADVENT 3 B  
DECEMBER 13, 2020  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway

Join Zoom Worship (login beginning at 12 Noon EDT)

<https://zoom.us/join>

Phone in: (mobile or home phone) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 742 347 8806 Passcode: 6562894

+19292056099,7423478806#, 0#,6562894# US (New York)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

“Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring”

by Johann Schop

Arr. By Johann Sebastian Bach and Marty Parks

Piano arr. By Lloyd Larson

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – THE CANDLE OF JOY

*We light the candles of hope, peace and joy*

### CALL TO WORSHIP *(Bosco Peter)*

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.

**He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;**

he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;

**he is the Savior of every nation.**

O God, let your blessing come upon our community gathered here before you.

May the light that shines forth from them

**illumine our way as we journey towards Christmas;**

may the light that shines forth from them

**illumine our lives as we wait in hope for the birth of the Christ-child.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Michael Perry)*

Our hearts praise you, O Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our savior,

for you have remembered us, your humble servants.

**Mighty God, we celebrate the great things you have done for us—**

**your name is holy!**

**From one generation to another you have shown mercy on those who honor you.**

**You have stretched out your mighty arm, scattering the conceited,**

**confusing their schemes.**

**You bring down tyrants and lift up the lowly;**

**you fill the hungry with good things, but send the rich away empty.**

**You have kept your promises to us; you have come to our help;**

**you will show your people your love for ever; our hearts praise you,**

**O Lord. Amen.**

**HYMN 347****LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.**

**King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.**

**Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the shadows clear away.**

**At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
“Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord most high!”**

**INVITATION TO CONFESSION**

God comes to us, to turn our world upside down.

In Jesus, God comes to us, removing our sin, our failures, our expectations,  
so we might have new life. Please join me as we pray, saying,

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God our Creator, we confess we are not the people you hope us to be.**

**The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.**

**The ones who ignore the lowly and needy, we admire and emulate.**

**We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty.**

**Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us.**

**We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world,  
we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior,  
in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Even now—yes, even in this very moment, God comes to us, bringing hope, bringing  
forgiveness, bringing grace as freely offered gifts to us.

**May we open our hearts to the God who is with us, and receive the gifts which  
have been offered to us. Thanks be to God.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

**“Christmas is Coming”** Words and Music by Joel Raney

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Faithful God, you chose Mary, full of grace, to be the mother of our Sovereign and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now fill us with your grace, that with her, we may understand your ways, rejoice in your salvation, and embrace your will; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### ISAIAH 62:1-11

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

<sup>4</sup>You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married for the Lord delights in you and your land shall be married

<sup>5</sup>For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride so shall you God rejoice over you

<sup>6</sup>Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels, all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest.

<sup>7</sup>and give him no rest until he established Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth

<sup>8</sup>The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored

<sup>9</sup>but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

<sup>10</sup>Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people: build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples.

<sup>11</sup>The Lord has proclaimed the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him."

### PSALM 126

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream

<sup>2</sup>**Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."**

<sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced

<sup>4</sup>**Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourse in the Neg'eb.**

<sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.**

## **LUKE 1:46-55 THE MAGNIFICAT**

<sup>46</sup>And Mary said "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant, Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed: <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm: he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly: <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel in remembrance of his mercy. <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

### **SERMON**

### **MARY KNEW**

### **HYMN 100**

### **MY SOUL CRIES OUT (Canticle of the Turning)**

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

*Refrain*

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, the world is about to turn.**

**Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame and to those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, the world is about to turn.**

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain*

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, the world is about to turn.**

**Though nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

*Refrain*

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, the world is about to turn.**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *20<sup>th</sup> century South African creed*)

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.  
We believe that God is at work in our world turning hopeless and evil situations into good.  
We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.  
One day all tears will be wiped away; the lamb will lie down with the lion, and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.  
True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired, they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.  
This is our faith. This is our hope.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**HYMN 82 COME, THOU LONG-EXPECTED JESUS**

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 heart alone;  
By thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

<b>POSTLUDE</b>	<b>"How Great Our Joy!"</b>	Traditional German Melody Arr. By Marty Parks Piano arr. By Marilyn Ham
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**GIVING TO 1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN OF ROCKAWAY**

- Go to our web page ([fpcrockaway.org](http://fpcrockaway.org)), scroll down to "donate" and give electronically

- Mail your donation to:  
1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian of Rockaway  
35 Church St.  
Rockaway, NJ 07886

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**Blue Christmas Service  
December 20, 2020  
7PM**

**Zoom Information will follow**

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Stephen Ministry



**Things Are Different This Year**

1. With the holidays upon us and during this year of Covid-19, your Stephen Ministry team continues to provide care to those suffering illness, loss, isolation and stress. Stephen Ministers talk with their care receivers by phone. We look forward to the time when we can meet in person with our care receivers but will continue to follow CDC, state & our church's guidelines.

If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister on a one-time basis, we would be glad to talk confidentially with you. Please call our Referrals Coordinator, Linda Kirby (973-316-0598 or [lkirby717@aol.com](mailto:lkirby717@aol.com)) or one of our Stephen Leaders: Pat Warren (973-586-2923), Sue Scott (201-412-9285) or Betty Smith (973-432-9410).

At Stephen Ministries we continue to pray for you during the holidays and this pandemic.

In His Peace,  
Your Stephen Leader Team