

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Belleville, PA**



**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 13, 2020**

## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

In person worship has been cancelled until further notice. Tune your radio to FM 102.3 for the service available in our Parking Lot and to nearby residents.

We welcome you all to our extended sanctuary, here, at home and in the parking lot. This third Sunday of Advent is also called Gaudete Sunday and Gaudete means “Rejoice!” God says “Rejoice in all things,” even when it’s difficult to do, as we turn the corner of Advent towards Christmas and Jesus draws near.

We also welcome Reba Harmon as our empty sanctuary “choir” leader and thank you for your patience as we set that up just before service last week.

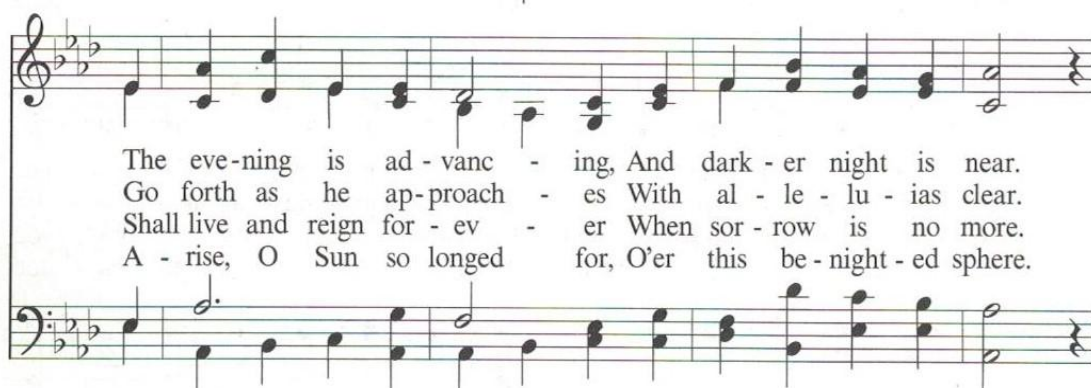
Let us know your favorite carols and we will include them before and after and in our Christmas Eve service.

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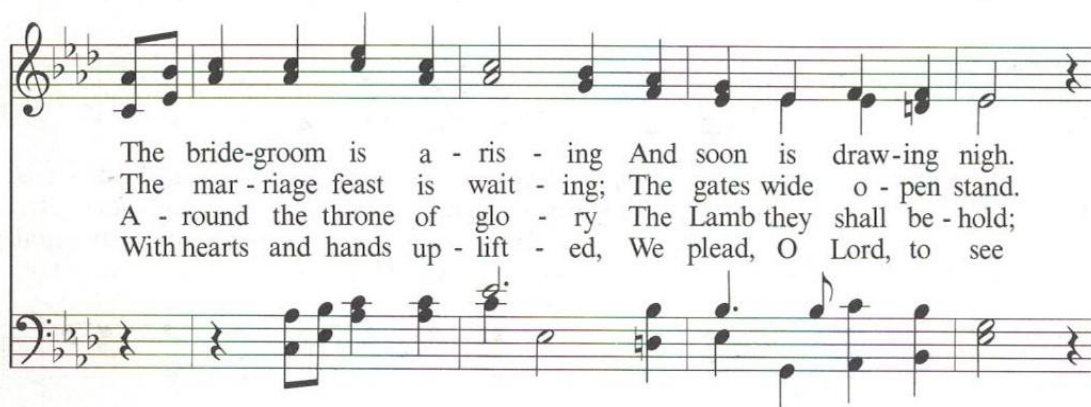
## Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



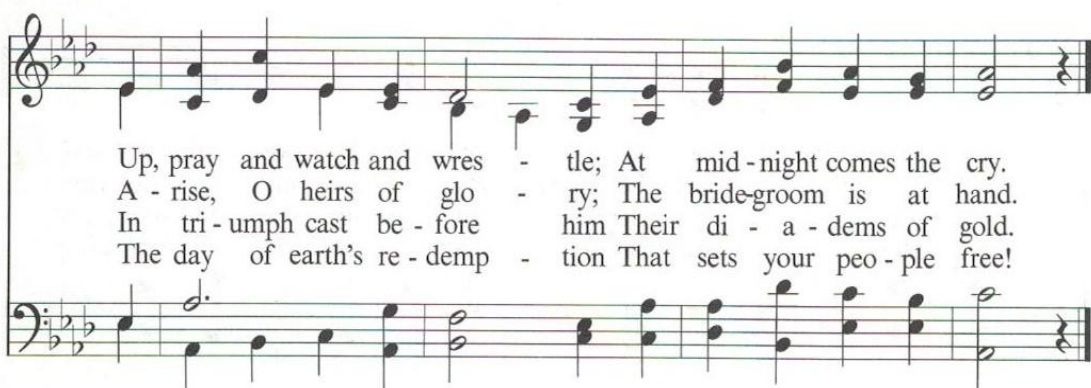
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as he ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The bride-groom is at hand.  
In tri - umph cast be - fore him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets your peo - ple free!

**\*CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS**

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

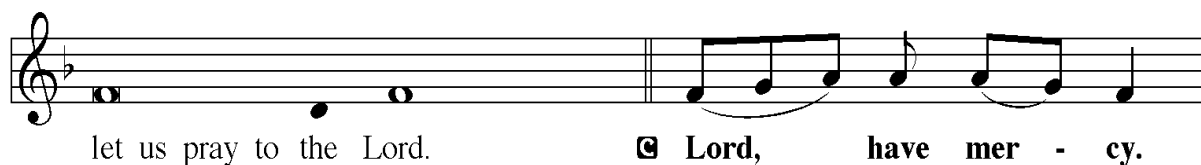
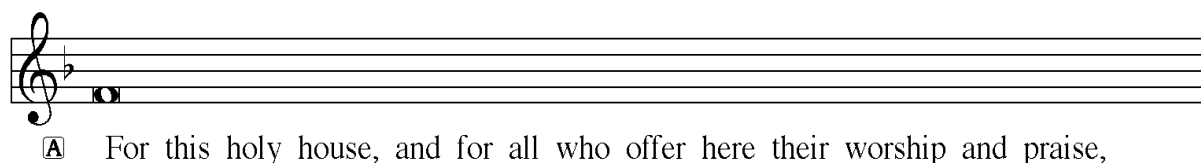
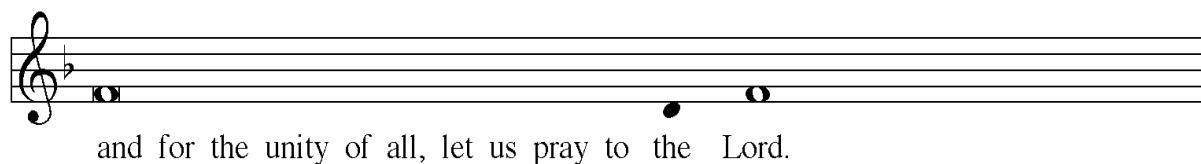
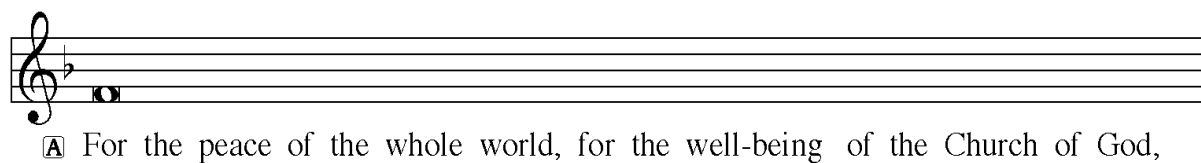
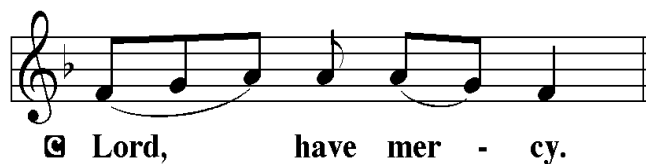
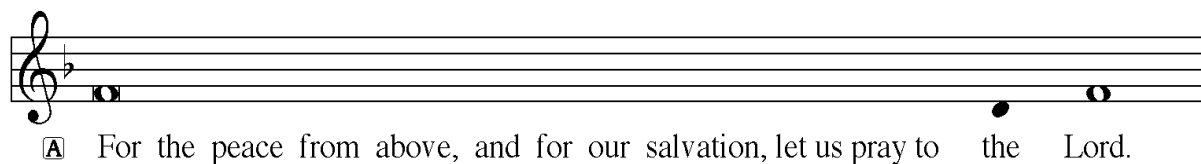
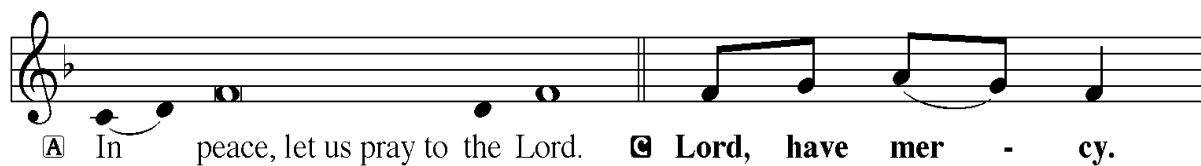
P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**



## HYMN of PRAISE



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



**B** Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## **\*PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*The peace is shared*

## **\*PRAYER of the DAY ~ (in unison) found in Celebrate**



## **LESSONS**

\*First Lesson ~ A reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

\*Psalm 126 ~ *with response*

\*Second Lesson ~ A reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

*after the reading*

R The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

## **LIGHTING the ADVENT CANDLES**

*Today we light the candle of Joy. The third candle, often pink, marks the pivot point, the half-way mark of Advent. We turn from solemnity to joy, from impatient waiting to joyful expectation, from repentance to rejoicing in the revelation of God incarnate as we prepare our gift to Christ.*

Hope was a dream and yet we waited,

**We lift the light of Hope.** (light the first purple candle across)

Peace settled within us and we sought it among the nations,

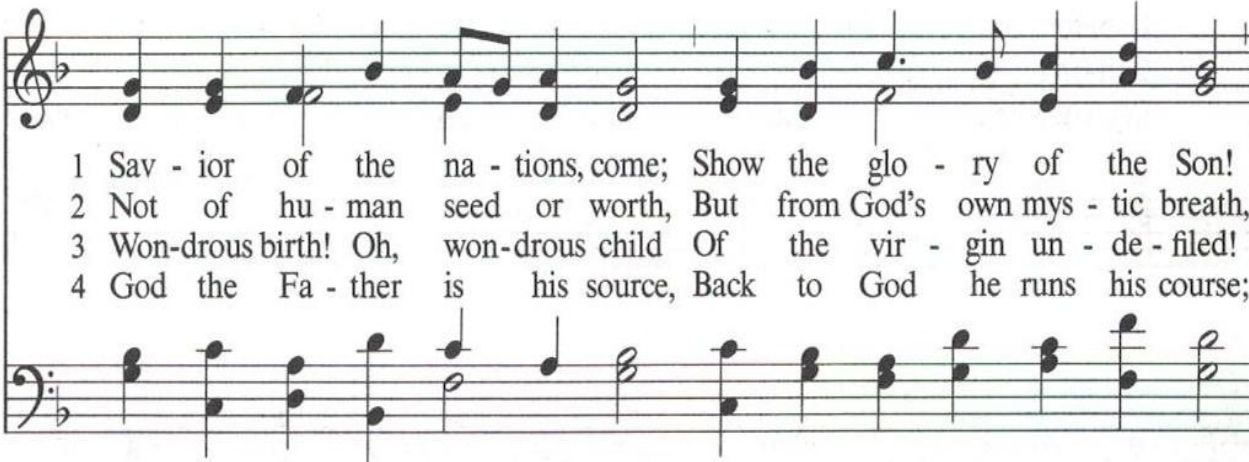
**We lift the light of Peace.** (light the next purple candle clockwise)

Joy sprang forth from Your salvation and we are glad indeed.

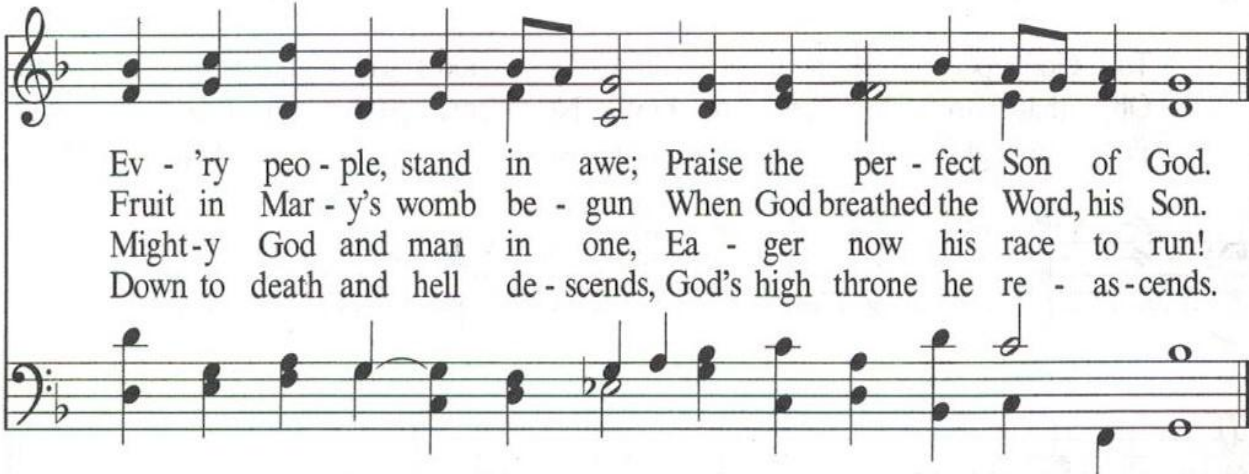
**We lift the light of Joy** (light the pink candle or third purple candle)

# Savior of the Nations, Come

28



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Show the glo - ry of the Son!  
 2 Not of hu - man seed or worth, But from God's own mys - tic breath,  
 3 Won-drous birth! Oh, won-drous child Of the vir - gin un - de - filed!  
 4 God the Fa - ther is his source, Back to God he runs his course;



Ev - 'ry peo - ple, stand in awe; Praise the per - fect Son of God.  
 Fruit in Mar - y's womb be - gun When God breathed the Word, his Son.  
 Might-y God and man in one, Ea - ger now his race to run!  
 Down to death and hell de - scends, God's high throne he re - as - cends.

5 He leaves heaven to return;  
 Trav'ling where dull hellfires burn;  
 Riding out, returning home  
 As the Savior who has come.

6 God the Father's precious Son  
 Girds himself in flesh to run  
 For the trophies of our souls,  
 Longer than this round earth rolls.

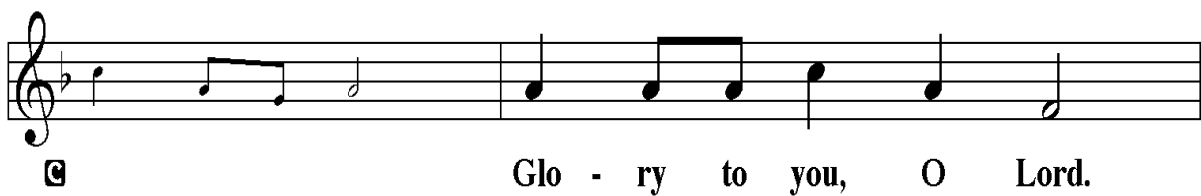
7 Shining stable in the night,  
 Breathing vict'ry with your light;  
 Darkness cannot hide your flame,  
 Shining bright as Jesus' name.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



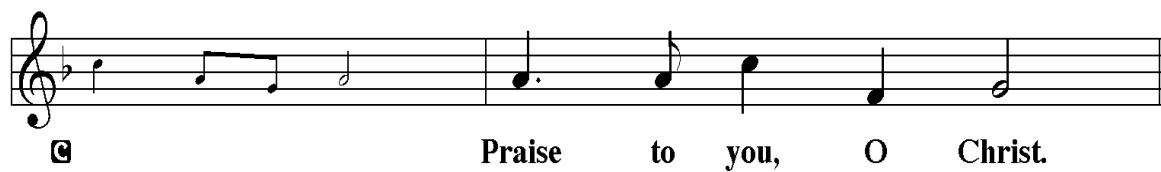
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel Reading ~ P The Holy Gospel according to John the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

*The Gospel is read. After the reading*  
P The Gospel of the Lord



Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE ~ *Who Are You*

# Hark, the Glad Sound!

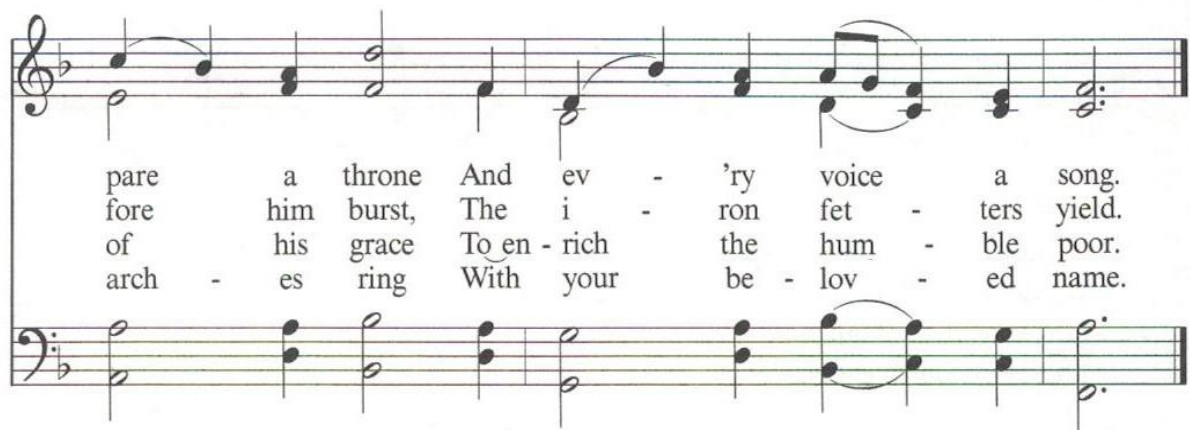
35



1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, The Sav - ior  
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, In Sa - tan's  
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, The bleed - ing  
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of Peace, Your wel - come



prom - ised long; Let ev - 'ry heart pre -  
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -  
 soul to cure, And with the trea - sures  
 shall pro - claim, And heav'n's e - ter - nal



pare a throne And ev - 'ry voice a song.  
 fore him burst, The i - ron fet - ters yield.  
 of his grace To en - rich the hum - ble poor.  
 arch - es ring With your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751  
 Tune: attr. Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

CHESTERFIELD  
 CM

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**

**OFFERING** ~ Your gifts may given to the volunteers or mailed to the church office.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray. Merciful Father,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given  
us--ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your  
gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered  
himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**\*PRAYERS of the PEOPLE** ~ *See Celebrate*

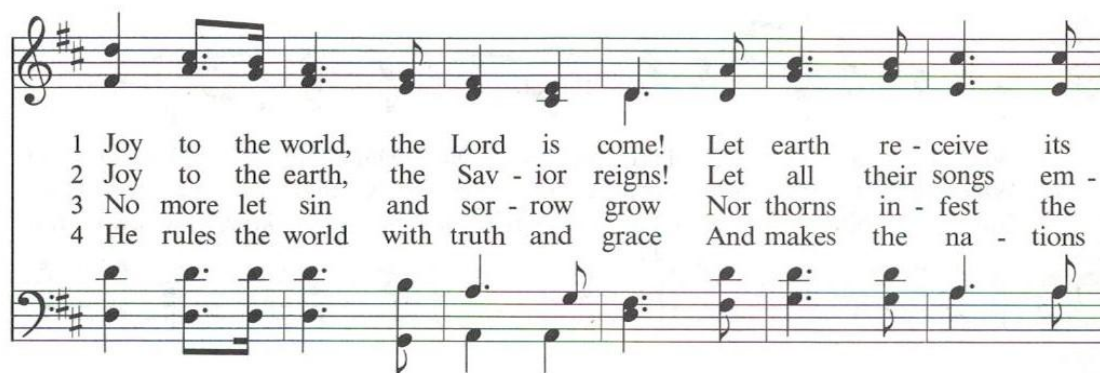
**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who  
trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from  
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever  
and ever. Amen

## Joy to the World

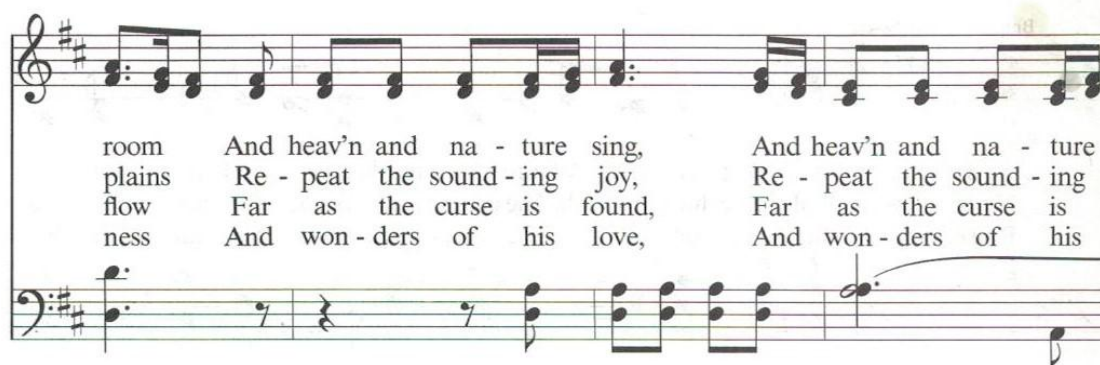
39



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive its  
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs em -  
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow Nor thorns in - fest the  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the na - tions



King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him  
 ploy, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 ground; He comes to make his bless - ings  
 prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture  
 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is  
 ness And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

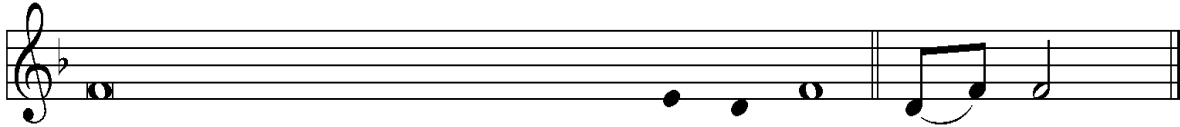


sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, Far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
 Tune: George F. Handel, 1685-1759, adapt.

ANTIOCH  
 C M and repeat

# **\*BLESSING**



**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you  
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**A - men**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord

**R Thanks be to God**

# 16 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

TRADITIONAL

TRADITIONAL

1. God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, Let noth-ing you dis-  
 2. In Beth-le-hem, in Jew-ry, This bless-ed Babe was  
 3. From God our heavn-ly Fa-ther A bless-ed an-gel

may, Re-mem-ber Christ our Sav-iour Was born on Christ-mas  
 born, And laid with-in a man-ger Up-on this bless-ed  
 came; And un-to cer-tain shep-herds Brought tid-ings of the

Day; To save us all from Sa-tan's pow'r When we were gone a-  
 morn; The which His moth-er Ma-ry Did noth-ing take in  
 same; How that in Beth-le-hem was born The Son of God by

CHORUS

stray. Oh, tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and  
 scorn. name.

joy, Oh tid-ings. of com-fort and joy.

**Pastor:** Reverend Ela J. Robertson Phone 740-338-7123

**Organist:** Seulki Susie Yoo

**Congregational Song Leader:** Reba Harmon

**Church Office:** 935-2032 **Email us at** [stjohnco@embarqmail.com](mailto:stjohnco@embarqmail.com)

**St. John's Christian Day Care:** 935-2959

### ***Our Mission Statement***

*We, the members of St. John's congregation, promise to share  
the good news of Jesus Christ, to worship and to love one another  
in our homes, church, community and the world.*

### ***Our Vision Statement***

*To be people who are welcoming and encourage God's love in our community through our  
prayer, devotion, benevolence and deeds.*

### **Today**

**Greeter:** Jim Buchanan; **Lay Reader:** Jim Buchanan

### **Next Sunday, December 20**

**Greeter:** Randy Harshbarger; **Lay Reader:** John Boring

The Altar Flowers in St. John's are given to the Glory of God  
by Don and Rosalie Smith in honor of their wedding anniversary.

Please remember in prayer ~ The families of Betty Smith, Diddy Cleck and Gary Anderson  
(son of Ev Young), Vivian Plank, Fred Hagemeyer, Kim Aumiller, Samantha Smith, our  
members ~ Betty Harmon (Elmcroft), Ev Young (Zion Home, Lititz) and Carol Yoder (VVH).

### **Notes from the Pastor**

Letters of appreciation have piled in for the Thanksgiving Dinner. If you feel moved to  
reciprocate you are welcome to donate to the ELCA Hunger fund, Presbyterian PCUSA Hunger  
fund or Hunger Fund of Huntingdon Presbytery. Kelly (SJ) or Joy (WK) could help you with  
this.

### **Announcements**

Parking Lot Service ~ There has been some confusion about where to park. **IF** the church **IS**  
**NOT OPEN** for worship, then please **use the front parking lot**. When the church **IS OPEN**  
again, and you choose to instead worship in your car, then please **use the back parking lot**.

**St. John's has Meals on Wheels the first 2 weeks in January. The following desserts are  
needed:** Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 4 ~ 9x12 pans of Apple Crisp; Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> 4 ~ Angel  
Food cakes; Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> Money to purchase pies and Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 4 ~  
chocolate cakes with peanut butter icing. If you can help provide any of these, please contact  
Sue Lynch 935-2013, the church office (2032) or sign-up in the narthex.

There are still quite a few dates left to place altar flowers for next year. Please contact the church office or sign-up in the narthex if you are interested.

*A special “thank you” to Ted and Tammy Carothers for planning and preparing a delicious Thanksgiving meal for the shut-ins of both churches. Also, thank you to all the volunteers who helped cook, serve, pack, clean-up and deliver the meals.*

*It was an unforgettable Thanksgiving Day for all of us who received your generous gift of love and dedication.*

*Thank you again to all those who contributed. May God bless each of you for your thoughtfulness and caring.*

*Dorie Remensnyder*

January thru December 10

Last week’s parking lot attendance ~ 22    Offering ~ \$ 2,435.00

St. John’s ~ Income \$ 511,923.67    Expense \$ 224,214.44  
Net Income \$ 287,709.23

Daycare ~ Income \$ 270,786.30    Expense \$ 231,679.35  
Net Income \$ 39,106.95

Please note ~ last week’s income and net income figures listed below were incorrect,  
“apologies for the confusion”.

January thru December 4

St. John’s ~ Income \$ 398,357.16    **actual \$ 508,243.67**  
Expense \$ 220,836.44  
Net Income \$ 177,520.72    **actual \$ 287,407.23**