

CELEBRATING

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*Advent*

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The Coming Of The

MESSIAH

ADVENT THREE: JOY

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**December 13, 2020**

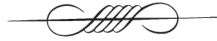
**10:00 a.m.**



**MEDIA  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

## OUR MISSION AND VISION

*Our Mission is to love God and love our neighbor.*



*Our Vision is to be a Christian Community that worships together,  
serves together, and grows together in faith.*

## VISITING TODAY?

*If this is your first time worshipping with us,  
we hope you will feel welcome.*

*If you have questions, please don't hesitate  
to reach out to us by phone or email. We also invite you to visit  
our website at [www.mediapresbyterian.org](http://www.mediapresbyterian.org)*

stephen  
MINISTRY.  
Christ Caring for People Through People  
[stephenministry@mediapresbyterian.org](mailto:stephenministry@mediapresbyterian.org)



*\*All who can do so comfortably are invited to stand*

# Welcome

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 13, 2020

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## GATHERING

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**Prelude**

Sean Michael McDonald, Organist

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Minute for Mission**

**Stewardship**

**\* Sharing the Joy of Our Faith** *(We encourage you to greet others and receive greetings while remaining in your pews. We encourage you to wave, offer the peace sign, clap your hands, tap your feet, whichever way you choose - we are blessed to be together to worship while remaining a safe physical distance apart. If you are worshipping virtually, we invite you to extend greetings using the chat feature.)*

**Lighting of the Advent Candles**

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

*Psalm 96*

**let all creation sing for joy  
at the coming of the Lord.**

The Lord of hosts is coming to restore us;

*Psalm 80*

God's face will shine, and we will be saved.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

*Psalm 85*

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

When the Lord restores our lives,

*Psalm 126*

we will be like those who dream; those who sow in tears  
will reap with shouts of joy.

Light dawns for the righteous, and joy to the upright in heart.

*Psalm 97*

**Rejoice in the Lord! Give thanks to God's holy name.**

**Song**

*Prepare Ye the Way*

**Call to Worship:** (inspired by Matthew 3:1-12, Mark 1:3, Isaiah 40:3)

Liturgist: We come to prepare the way;

**People: The way for Christ –**

Liturgist: the hope of Christ, the peace of Christ –

**People: to enter our world,  
to enter our hearts.**

Liturgist: We cry out together in the wilderness:

**People: The kingdom of heaven has come near.**

Liturgist: We come to be part of the light–

**People: the light that shines in the darkness.**

Opening Hymn/Song    *Joy to the World (We Receive Your Joy)*  
Worship Team

## **Children's Moment**

### **Blessing of the Children (All)**

"Lord God, bless us your children here, in our neighborhoods and in our ministries throughout the coming week. Show us your goodness. Give us your peace for when we are afraid. Teach us to hear your voice and go with us, your children as we go to worship you!"

### **Call to Confession** (1 John 1:8-9)

Liturgist: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**People: If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*(a time of honesty before God in silent confession)*

### **Prayer of Confession**

Holy and loving God,  
we have dwelt in darkness

and preferred it to the light;  
we have been proud of our accomplishments  
and despaired over our shortcomings.  
Smooth down the mountains of our pride,  
and lift up the valleys of our doubts.  
Open a path in the wilderness of our lives  
that we might find our way to you again.

Refine us and prepare us once again  
for life in your kingdom.

**Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon (from Psalm 91: 14-16)**

Liturgist: Those who love me, I will deliver, says the Lord;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them,  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

Receive the good news of the gospel.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

## **EQUIPPING**

### **THE WORD**

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**First Reading:** Luke 4: 16-30

One: This is the word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon Reading:** Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11

**Sermon:**

*“Who is Jesus to You”*  
Rev. Rose Sparrow

## RESPONSE

### **\* AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Apostles' Creed*

Please join me in the affirmation of faith, the Apostles Creed.

Brothers and sisters what do you believe?

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick 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.**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **Invitation to Stewardship**

At this time we are invited to join God in generosity. One of the most famous verses in the Bible, John 3:16 states, "for God so loved the world that He gave His Son. So that whoever believes in Him might not perish but that they might have eternal life." We invite you to give, right now. You can navigate to the MPC website and click the **GIVE ONLINE** button in the top right corner. You can also mail a check or drop off a check in the church mailbox. If you are unable to give financially, you are still invited to Join Jesus in generosity. You may give your heart, you may give your life, you may give your service. If you would like to offer your gifts through the ministry of the church, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan or Pastor Rose. Freely you have received, freely give.

#### **Offering Song**

*Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel*  
*Worship Team*

**Doxology** (*All*)                      (Blue Hymnal 592)                      OLD HUNDREDTH  
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise God all creatures here below;**  
**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**  
**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **\* Prayer of Dedication**

## **CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER**

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*After the Words of Institution, we invite you to celebrate Communion using your bread and your juice. If you are in the sanctuary, you will be invited to take a single-serve communion cup. Remove the first wrapper for the wafer, the second for the grape juice.*

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The prayer continues...*

### **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.**

### **Words of Institution**

### **Communion of the People**

# Communion/ Meditation

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

## Prayer of Affirmation

### \*Closing Hymn/Song

*Prepare the Way #13*

## CHARGE AND BLESSING

### \*Postlude

Sean Michael McDonald, Organ

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### Leading worship this morning...

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Rev. Jonathan Fettig, *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Rose Sparrow, *Interim Parish Associate*

Sebastian Carpenter, *Director of Contemporary Music and Worship, Interim  
Director of Youth Ministries*

Deacon John Wood, *Worship Leader*

Lisa VanHeldorf, *Choir Director*

Sean Michael McDonald, *Organist*



## **Small Group Questions**

Isaiah 61: 1-4; 8-11 (read 1-11)

### **Questions to ponder as we get to know a little about each other:**

- In your family chores or in your work situation, what is the dirtiest job you have to do? What clothes do you wear to do it?
- When you celebrate special occasions, what clothes do you wear? How do these clothes affect your mood?
- When you were very young, what did you expect adulthood would be like?

### **Questions to help us dig into the Scripture:**

- What good news is the prophet bringing to the poor, broken-hearted and grief-stricken?
- During times of grief, people would put on sackcloth and cover themselves with ashes as a sign of their mourning. With what will God replace these garments?
- How extensive is this priesthood? Who are the worshippers? Why is God going to do this for the people (vv. 8-9)?
- Verses 10-11 present the people's response to the Lord's promises. In what way are they like a bride? A garden? What emotions are these images meant to convey?

### **Questions to help us apply the Scripture to our own life, to take personal inventory and share with the group what you are going to do as a result:**

- Who does "me" refer to in verse 1?
- What stories from the Gospels portray Jesus' ministry in terms of verses 1-3? (See Lk 4:18-19, for example.) How do those verses relate to your experience upon hearing the good news?
- Do you feel as though you are "wearing ashes" or are you "trying on new clothes"? Why? In what way do you especially want to see God bring this freedom to you?