

The First Presbyterian Church
1432 Washtenaw Ave., Ann Arbor, Michigan, 48104
(734) 662-4466 www.firstpresbyterian.org

the 5:45



December 13, 2009
Third Sunday in Advent

PREACHING today is the Reverend Julie Marks.

PARTICIPATING today is the Reverend Sarah Wiles.

THE PIANIST, ORGANIST AND MUSIC DIRECTOR is Carol Muehlig.

THE VOCALISTS are David Bucholtz, Sally Carpenter, and Kathy Wirstrom.

THE INSTRUMENTALISTS are Denali Gere and Patricia Farris, flute; and Linda Speck, viola.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

MINUTE FOR MISSION Expanding Rotating Shelter

Brian Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The candles will be lit by Promises member Doug Peterson and Jane Peterson.

One: We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.

All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: You created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

As the candles are lit, please sing verse three hymn 309, Of the Father's Love Begotten:
**Christ, to Thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to Thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.**

One: Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
for God has created you with the capacity for joy.

**All: We will find what makes us joyful,
and make that our gift to the world.**

One: Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.

All: We will welcome new possibilities in our lives. We will offer ourselves to God's goodness. We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

HYMN Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

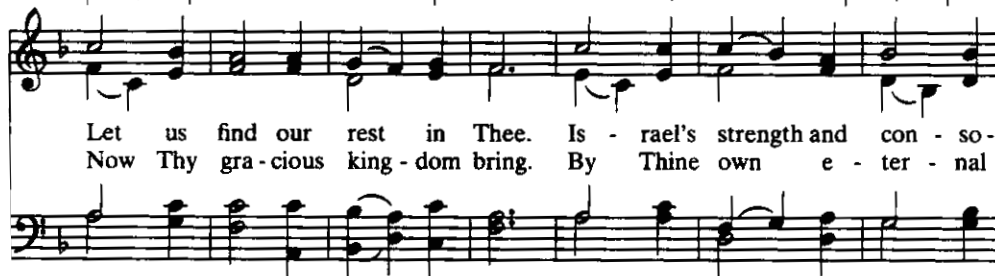
Hyfrydol



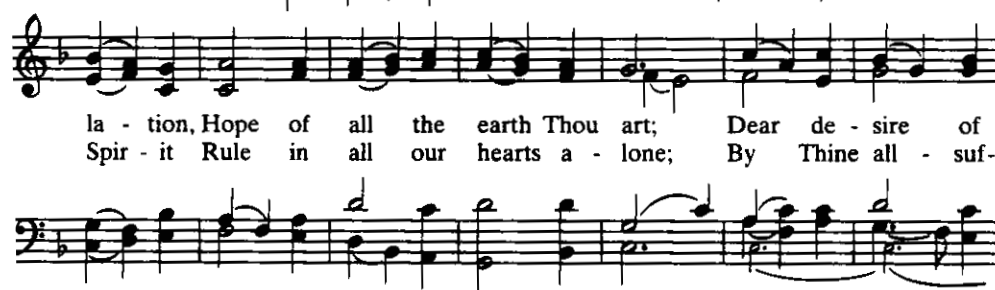
1. Come, Thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, Born to set Thy
2. Born Thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, Born a child and



peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us;
yet a King, Born to reign in us for - ev - er,



Let us find our rest in Thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -
Now Thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By Thine own e - ter - nal



la - tion, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear de - sire of
Spir - it Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By Thine all - suf -



ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to Thy glo - rious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Lord of extravagant love, again and again you offer yourself to us in the gift of the Christ. As we prepare our celebration of this your greatest gift to us, we confess we are distracted, even anxious. We worry we won't get everything done, as if your coming somehow depended on us. We rush here to there instead of sensing your presence in moments of quiet reflection, or time spent with those dearest to us, or in songs sung with joy. Trappings of the season divert us from your presence in word and sacrament and service to others. Forgive us, center us, prepare our hearts for the wonder of Emmanuel, You with us and for us. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING OF THE PEACE

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

SUNG RESPONSE Angels We Have Heard On High

Gloria

1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:8-20 (N.T., p. 58)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S PROMISE

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC I Saw Three Ships

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Table

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the LORD.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the LORD.

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

HYMN Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.