

SUN 8:15 AM
DECEMBER 15, 2024

Worship Service for THE LORD'S DAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*As a community of Christ's disciples, we joyfully participate
in Christ's mission of love and peace, transformation and hope.*

Welcome to Worship

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.

* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND INVITATIONS

Rev. Ginger Thomas

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Amy and Dave Szlachetka

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew; he was little, weak, and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

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THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (OT, pg. 3)

Mary Clare Owens

*HYMN 129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind. To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.

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THE SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (OT, pg. 638)

Lena Sweringen

***HYMN 123 (verses 1-2)**

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all-gracious King": the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er the weary world: above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

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THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38 (NT, pg. 56)

Jay Thier

***HYMN 114**

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20 (NT, pg. 58)

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

***HYMN 113 (verses 1, 3)**

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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THE FIFTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 (NT, pg.91)

Rev. Roger Owens

REFLECTION

The Gift of Joy

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Ginger Thomas

This is Christ's table, and all who seek to follow Christ are welcome at this table, regardless of their age or understanding. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to participate in the sacrament. The opportunity to eat and drink with Christ is not a right bestowed upon the worthy but a privilege given to the undeserving who come in faith, repentance, and love.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God?...

... we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus...

...and praying: Come, Lord Jesus!:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us...

...almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

Today we will receive by intinction. Starting with the front row, come forward by the middle aisle with open hands. Receive a piece of bread, dip it in the juice, and eat. Gluten-free sealed elements are available on the table.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our hope, we give you thanks that you have given us this foretaste of the justice, righteousness, and peace of your promised new creation. Strengthen us with this heavenly food as we seek to serve your holy realm. Lead us to live in joyful expectation of the coming again in glory of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor (ginger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor (roger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor (rebecca@fcpc.us)

S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)

Amy and Dave Szlachetka, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

Don Moyer, Caretaker (don@fcpc.us)

Scripture Readers:

Mary Clare Owens, Lena Sweringen, and Jay Thier

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