Carmel Presbyterian Church Third Sunday of Advent Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy December 11, 2022 10:00 AM



A Week of Joy begins ...

Order of Worship

We enter this church not as strangers, but as children of God.

* Please stand, as able.

Congregation voices **Bold** responses.

WE GATHER TOGETHER

We gather as a community of faith to meet God in new ways and reflect on the hope and promise of God's gift to us through

Jesus Christ.

Welcome and Greetings -- Pastor Peter

Prelude

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Bloomina"

Michael Burkhardt

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy (Pink)

Hans & Sarah Stein, with Joelle, Alice & Maxwell

Introduction

Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day.

"Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people."

Scripture

Listen for the Word of God from John, Chapter 15, verses 9-11:

I love you just as the Father loves me; remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, in the same way, that I have obeyed my Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

Lighting the Candle of Hope, Peace, and Joy

We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of God into our darkness. With the coming of this light, there is *hope*.

With the coming of this light, there is peace.

With the coming of this light, there is joy, the joy that is ours not only at Christmas but always.

Advent Prayer

O Lord, as Christmas draws near, there is a sense of excitement in the air. We can feel joy in our lives and see it in those around us. Still, for some of us, this is a sad time because of unhappy things that have happened in our lives. Help us to have the joy that does not depend upon earthly happiness but upon you. Help us be filled with your joy so we may share it with a joyless world. Amen.

* Call to Worship (Spoken responsively) – Pastor Peter

Today there is good news for us to behold!

Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.

For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.

God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.

Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

Believe in the power of God in all things. AMEN.

* Hymn 19

"To a Maid Engaged to Joseph"

Annunciation

Call to Confession (Seated) - Pastor Peter

Prayer of Confession (In unison) - Pastor Peter

Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. In Jesus' Name, we pray...

(A moment of silence for personal reflection & confession...)

Amen. Amen.

Choral Response

Kyrie

arr. David N. Johnson

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon (Read responsively.) – Pastor Peter

Friends: Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God!

It is poured out for us and for God's beloved world.

Rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to you.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

* Gloria Patri (Hymn 579)

"Glory Be to the Father"

Henry W. Greatorex

* Passing of the Peace (Spoken responsively; from Isaiah 35) – Pastor Peter

The coming of Christ turns the world upside down.

For folks who are quite content with things as they are, this may not feel like good news!

But a greater vision lies before us—God's vision of real life for all. Comfort one another with these words of encouragement: "Be strong, do not fear."

"God will come and save us."

With the hope of those who are forgiven, and with a commitment to walk in the way of peace, let us pass the peace of Christ to our neighbors.

Peace be with you!

(Greet one another sharing God's peace now and throughout the week.)

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

We hear the stories of our faith in scripture, song, prayer, and sermon.

Children's Message – Pastor Peter

(Following the Children's message, children in third grade and below are invited to depart for Children's Worship downstairs in Carmel Hall.)

Unison Prayer for Illumination (In unison) – Led by Eric Krieg

Let us pray,

O God, by your Spirit, tell us what we need to hear, and show us what we ought to do, to obey Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Old Testament Reading — Read by Eric Krieg

The first reading from the lectionary is Isaiah, chapter 35, verses 1-10; pp. 663-664. In Contrast to Edom in Isaiah 34, the return from exile will be met with ecological renewal and restored health. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

The desert and the dry land will be glad;
the wilderness will rejoice and blossom like the crocus.
They will burst into bloom,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They will receive the glory of Lebanon,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the Lord's glory,
the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and support the unsteady knees. Say to those who are panicking: "Be strong! Don't fear! Here's your God, coming with vengeance; with divine retribution God will come to save you."

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

Then the lame will leap like the deer, and the tongue of the speechless will sing.

Waters will spring up in the desert, and streams in the wilderness.

The burning sand will become a pool, and the thirsty ground, fountains of water.

The jackals' habitat, a pasture;

grass will become reeds and rushes.

A highway will be there.

It will be called The Holy Way.

The unclean won't travel on it,

but it will be for those walking on that way.

Even fools won't get lost on it;

no lion will be there,

and no predator will go up on it.

None of these will be there;

only the redeemed will walk on it.

The Lord's ransomed ones will return and enter Zion with singing,
with everlasting joy upon their heads.

Happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and groaning will flee away.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

New Testament Reading - Read by Eric Krieg

The second reading from the lectionary is James, chapter 5, verses 7-10; p. 217. Patience is a word of consolation to the beloved, or the community of faith. Listen now for the word of God to you!

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near. Don't complain about each other, brothers and sisters, so that you won't be judged. Look! The judge is standing at the door!

Brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord as an example of patient resolve and steadfastness.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

New Testament Gospel Reading – Read by Pastor Peter

The gospel reading is Luke, chapter 1, verses 26-38, 46-55; pp. 53-54. Jesus' birth foretold and Mary's Song of Praise. Listen now for the Word of God to you!

When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David's house. The virgin's name was Mary. When the angel came to her, he said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!" She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over Jacob's house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How will this happen since I haven't had sexual relations with a man?"

The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God's Son. Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled 'unable to conceive' is now six months pregnant. Nothing is impossible for God."

Then Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it be with me just as you have said." Then the angel left her....

....Mary said,

"With all my heart I glorify the Lord!
In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior.
He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant.
Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me.

Holy is his name.

He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God.

He has shown strength with his arm.

He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations.

He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed.

He has come to the aid of his servant Israel,

remembering his mercy,

just as he promised to our ancestors,

to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Jesus' Mom Mary"

Pastor Peter

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Inspired by the promise of God's Word, let us give our thanks and praise – so we may continue God's work as we move into God's week.

* Hymn 30

"Born in the Night, Mary's Child"

(Mary's Child)

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession and The Lord's Prayer (Using 'debts' & 'debtors')

Invitation to the Offering – Pastor Peter

(Our hearts are open, and our ministries are continuing seven days a week. Your contribution or pledge payment sustains our presence as the church in the local and global community. Please place your offering on the offering plate at the usher's invitation, give it online, or mail your offering envelope to the church office.)

Offertory

"Prepare the Royal Highway" Sanctuary Choir

arr. James H. Laster

Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let every hill and valley A level way appear!
Then greet the king of glory Foretold in sacred story:
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's holy name,
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name.

His is no earthly kingdom; It comes from heaven above. His rule is peace and freedom And justice, truth, and love. So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding: Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name. Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name.

Then fling the gates wide open To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before him! All voices, join in singing:
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's holy name,
Oh, blest is he that came In God the Father's name!

* Doxology 592 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Old Hundredth

(Ushers will bring the Offering Plate forward, returning it to the rear of the Sanctuary.)

* Prayer of Dedication (Isaiah 35, Luke 1) – Led by Eric Krieg

Let us pray.

Generous God, you have given us all that we have and all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to respond to your love and generosity by sharing our gifts with others. Our hearts sing with joy as we work with you to bring true peace and justice to our world. As we prepare for the coming of your Son, may our lives proclaim your good news for all throughout the earth. Amen.

WE ARE SENT TO SERVE GOD

Renewed and refreshed by our experience with God and God's congregation, we go into the world to share God's love.

* Hymn 22

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

Regent Square

* Benediction and Charge – Pastor Peter

May the love of God fill you until you overflow with joy.

May the coming of the Christ Child free us to live in an upside-down world.

May the Holy Spirit empower you to work for the reign of God on earth.

At Christmas and throughout the year, may we be inspired to share the good news of God's vision of peace and love. Amen.

Chimes – (You may sit in silent, reflective prayer as the worship leaders recess.)

Postlude

"On Jordan's Bank" (Winchester New)

Christopher Tambling

Announcements

Guests: You Are Welcome Here

WE CORDIALLY WELCOME THOSE WHO ARE VISITING TODAY. We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in our worship, mission, and programs; we are happy to share our ministry with you. We'd like to get to know you. Please introduce yourself to a person nearby and be sure to join us downstairs in Carmel Hall for refreshments and conversation after worship! We hope your worship experience is meaningful and you will gather with us again soon. Should you wish for Hearing Devices and/or Large Print Bibles & Hymnals, they are available from an usher. Sign our guest book at the sanctuary entrance (or share your email/contact information in the offering plate for a weekly email of future worship and activities). We invite you to speak with the Pastor if you are interested in membership. Restrooms are located down the long hallway just past the Church Office in the Education Building.

CARMEL IS HAPPY TO PROVIDE FOR THE YOUNG MEMBERS of our congregation by offering Nursery Care and Children's Worship (Grades K-3) during the Sunday 10:00 am worship service. We request that if you desire nursery care for your child during Sunday worship, please call the Church Office by Friday noon, so that the nursery is staffed. Children's Worship does not require reserving ahead. Children leave the Sanctuary for Carmel Hall after the Children's Message. We welcome our young families, either in person or in virtual worship. Any questions may be addressed to Janet Simon, Christian Education Committee chair; or Melissa MacFarland, Children's Worship leader.

THIS MORNING, THE FLOWERS IN OUR SANCTUARY are in loving memory of Elaine J. Rice, Dave's mother, who went on to be With the Lord on 12/12/20 and joined her husband and eldest son. By David, Christine, Nicole, and Matthew Rice.

A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION – As we continue in the Advent season, reflect on these words from Meister Eckart, 14th Century: "We are all meant to be mothers of God."

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE (WITH A SPECIAL PRELUDE AT 7:15 PM) THIS EVENING! – Phone your friends and family. Carmel's annual **Candlelight Carol Service** is this evening, December 11, 2022, at 7:30 pm with a special prelude beginning at 7:15 pm. Join in this wonderful Carmel Church tradition. All the church choirs, bell ringers, and soloists will lift your spirits in the glorious sounds of the season.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERINGIS COLLECTED DURING ADVENT to provide assistance to current and retired pastors when they encounter unexpected needs as well as to help develop future leaders at colleges and schools in communities of color. Special envelopes are in the pew racks. There are a few on the table in the back of the Sanctuary. More information is in the enclosed insert. Be sure to include your 2022 envelope number. Pew envelopes may also be used when marked "Christmas Joy Offering".

LOOKING AHEAD TO CARMEL'S CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES — On Christmas Eve Carmel will hold two services. The first will be the Christmas Eve Family Service at 4:30 pm where Carmel children in costume will reenact the Scripture passages of the Nativity Story and the Junior Choir will sing. The second will be a Christmas Eve Communion Service at 9:00 pm. A special Musical Prelude will start at 8:30 pm. Mindy Cutcher, principal harpist for the Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra, will play with flutist Michele Kelly. Michele teaches at Penn and is the flutist with Relache. Carmel's Festival Choir will sing during the Traditional Candlelight Communion Service for Christmas Eve. With Christmas Day falling on Sunday this year, Carmel will have a Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am with the Christmas story and carols!

JOIN CARMEL'S FESTIVAL CHOIR FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON – A Festival Choir for the Christmas season will begin rehearsing on Thursday, November 17, at 7:30 PM. The choir has prepared for the annual Candlelight Carol Service this evening, December 11, and is preparing for the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. The choir comprises youth and adults from the Carmel choirs and members and friends of the congregation who enjoy singing but cannot commit to weekly rehearsals year-round. Come and sing for this special festive Christmas season. The remaining rehearsals will be on Thursdays, December 8, 15, and 22 at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Please tell Abby Palmisano if you are coming so a folder of music will be ready for you!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP IS "CELEBRATING SABBATH" – CPW (Carmel Presbyterian Women) meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm for bible study and fellowship. Our 9-month study is "Celebrating Sabbath" and focuses on exploring the idea of 'accepting God's gift of rest and delight'. Join us in the Women's Fellowship Lounge for lively discussion and light refreshments.

CARMEL YOUTH MINISTRY (CYM) INVITES YOUTH IN GRADES 3-8! — **Carmel Youth Ministry (CYM)** welcomes all kids in Grades 3-8. It meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30—7:30 in Carmel Hall. Fun, fellowship, and growing together as a group guides the group and leaders. **CYM leaders** Joyce, Katey, Melissa, and Jed look forward to seeing you.

MUSIC NOTES FROM CARMEL'S BALCONY – Please hold the date for a new year of church choirs. Join us in the new season of singing and ringing.

- Children's Choir, for anyone in Grades K-2, meets Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM -5:40 PM.
- Junior Choir, for anyone in Grades 3-8, meets Wednesdays, from 5:45 PM to 6:30 PM.
- Youth Choir, for anyone in Grades 9-12, meets Sundays, from 11:15 AM to 11:45 AM.
- Sanctuary Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Thursdays, from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM.
- Handbell Choir, for anyone in Grades 7-adult, meets Mondays, from 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

For questions about any choirs, please contact Abby Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music.

WONDER "WHAT'S GOING ON?" CHECK OUT CARMEL'S WEBSITE! Explore the wealth of information at www.presbycarmel.org. Easily find links for the current Livestream worship, past services, and the daily lectionary, or send a prayer request or make a financial donation—and not miss the latest on the Carmel Calendar. Clicking on the upper circular church photo will always bring you back to the Home Page.

JOIN US EACH SUNDAY IN WORSHIP; CELEBRATE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH! Live Streaming Worship is available on YouTube or via Zoom on the phone for those unable to attend inperson worship due to health comfort levels or travel situations. You can find our Sunday morning worship live streaming Sundays at 10:00 am with links below:

YouTube (Carmel Presbyterian Church Glenside) at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2KnjuJryWjVkrJljlDvsRw
Those without Internet access may phone in via the Zoom phone link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8428511409 and Meeting ID: 842 851 1409

SIGN-UP TO HELP WITH WORSHIP – EACH SUNDAY WE HAVE several spots you can assist: liturgist, ushers, greeters, and host for coffee hour. We are not all we can be without you sharing your gifts as a volunteer! Speak with a pastor or sign up online here:

https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/904094ca8a62aa6f49-worship

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Participants Serving the Church in Worship

Peter Sulyok, Transitional Senior Pastor
James D. Eby, Pastor Emeritus
John Diller, Called Pastor, beginning January 3rd, 2023
Abigail Vander Hart Palmisano, Organist and Director of Music
Sanctuary Choir
Eric Krieg, Liturgist

Hans & Sarah Stein, with Joelle, Alice & Maxwell, Lighting the Advent Candle Bob and Cindy Gerhard, Greeter/Ushers Linda MacFarland, Shepherd

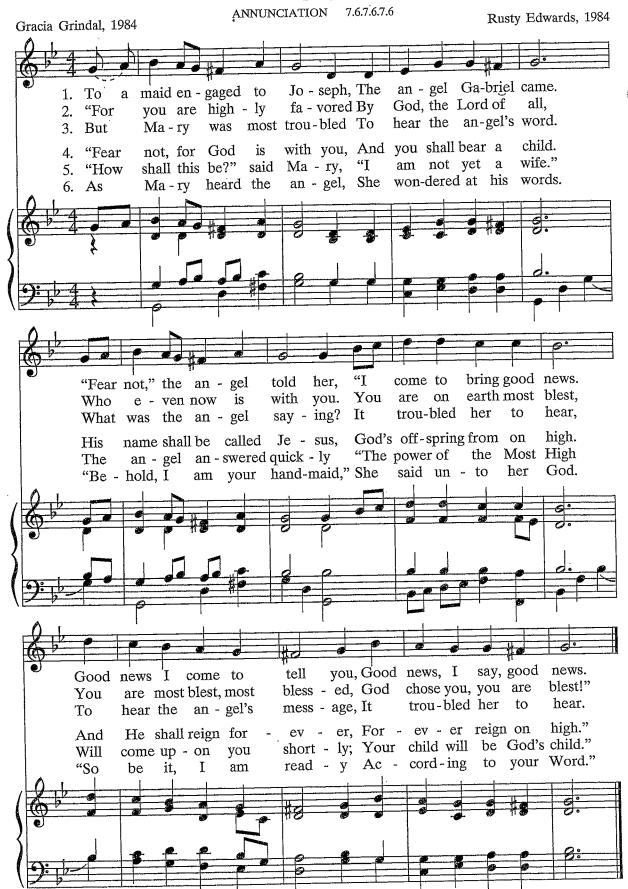
Rodney Hackman & Walter Newman, Chancel Preparation and Emergency Procedure (CPEP)

Tom Bohlander, Jay Raulinaitis, and Dave Rice, Live-Streaming Operators

Melissa Deacon, Coffee Hour Host: Carmel Hall (11:00 AM)

Carmel Presbyterian Church

100 Edge Hill Road Glenside, PA 19038 215-887-1074 www.presbycarmel.org



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Glory Be to the Father



30 Born in the Night, Mary's Child



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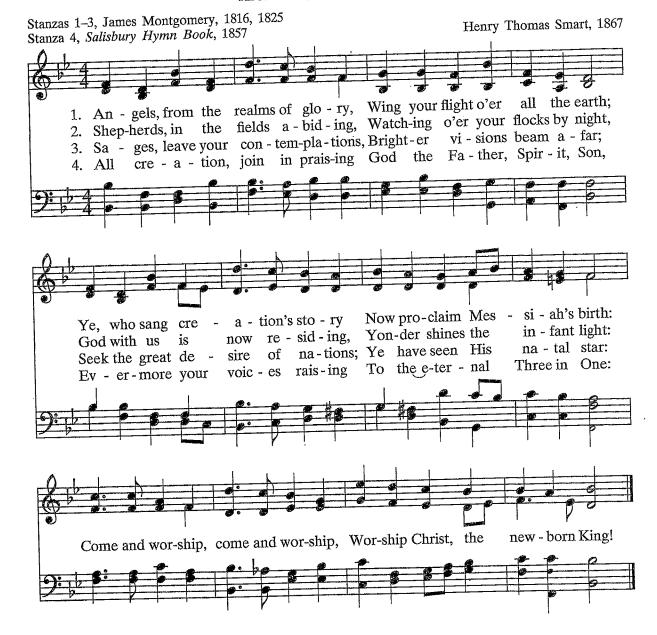
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE 8.7.8.7.8.7



COMING EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Third Sunday of Advent

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy (pink), Sanctuary: 10:00 am

Coffee Hour, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

Youth Choir (Grades 9-12): 11:15-11:45 am Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary: 5:15 pm

Flute Choir Prelude, Sanctuary: 7:15 pm

Candlelight Carol Service, Sanctuary: 7:30 pm

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Handbell Choir, Sanctuary: 7:30-8:30 pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

Joint Meeting of Session and Board of Deacons, Chapel: 7:00 pm

Session and Deacons meet separately, Carmel Lounge or Chapel: 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Staff Meeting, Fellowship Lounge: 10:30 am

Children's Choir (Grades K-2), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:00-5:40 pm Junior Choir (Grades 3-8), Choir Room & Sanctuary: 5:45-6:30 pm CYM (Carmel Youth Ministry), (Grades 3-8), Carmel Hall: 6:30-7:30 pm

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Festival Choir and Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary: 7:30-9:00 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Worship in the Sanctuary (and Live-Streaming): 10:00 am Lighting the Advent Candle of Love, Sanctuary: 10:00 am *Christmas Joy Offering* is Dedicated, Sanctuary: 10:00 am Transitional Pastor Reception, Carmel Hall: 11:00 am

Youth Choir (Grades 9-12): 11:15-11:45 am