

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

SAINT GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WELCOME

INTERIM PASTOR INTRODUCTION

Carol Pope

CALL TO WORSHIP

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day.
She left her lunch at home.
She skinned her knee on the playground, and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus.

As she sank into her mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said,
"Honey, what was the best part of today?"
The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible."

So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and said,
"There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to look for it."

The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about today?"
And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms."

Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in God's arms.
So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we sow joy.

Let us worship Holy God.

SONG # 141 *On This Day, Earth Shall Ring* Verse 1

*On this day earth shall ring
with the song children sing
to the Lord, Christ our King,
born on earth to save us;
him the Father gave us.
Ideo, ideo,
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – THE CANDLE OF JOY

The Gospodarek Family

Voice One: I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.

Voice Two: I dream of laughter that is contagious.

One: I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.

Two: I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.

One: I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.

Two: I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.

One: I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.

Two: So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

One: God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.

Two: So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.

One: May we dance.

Two: May we laugh.

One: May we hold onto the people we love.

Two: May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance. Amen.

–The candle of Joy is lit. –

PSALM

Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.
 Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
 then it was said among the nations,
 "The Lord has done great things for them."
 The Lord has done great things for us,
 and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
 like the watercourses in the Negeb.
 May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
 Those who go out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,
 shall come home with shouts of joy,
 carrying their sheaves.

One: The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

SONG # 141

On This Day, Earth Shall Ring

Verse 3

***God's bright star, o'er his head,
 wise men three to him led;
 kneel they low by his bed,
 lay their gifts before him,
 praise him and adore him.
 Ideo, ideo,
 ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O Great Writer,
With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers,
there should be no end to our joy.
And yet, instead of decorating our very beings with joy,
We let it slip away like loose change.
Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,
We pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive us.
Teach us the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing
as if joy is the very thing
that keeps them alive.
Maybe they have joy figured out.
Gratefully we pray, amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

One: People of God:
Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our
righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.
All: Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

MESSAGE Soulful Singing

Rev. Lance Perry

SONG # 141***On This Day, Earth Shall Ring***

Verse 4

***On this day angels sing;
with their song earth shall ring,
praising Christ, heaven's King,
born on earth to save us;
peace and love he gave us.
Ideo, ideo,
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God, our hope, we rejoice that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return. As we wait, our hearts overflow with gratitude: for the beauty of creation . . . for your work in the world . . . for signs of peace and reconciliation . . . for our community and its leaders . . . for your work accomplished through your church, especially for this Advent season of anticipation, promise and hope. For all these reasons and so much more we give you praise.

As we celebrate the first coming of your Son as a helpless child, we also yearn for his return, for the day in which there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death. Today we remember in prayer: the nations of the world as they grapple with the pandemic. . . those in authority as they seek to provide safe guidance . . . needs in our community, especially those who are unemployed and struggling financially. . . the church universal, its mission, and those who minister . . . local congregations as they seek to be faithful, and those with particular physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs. We offer these prayers in the name Jesus Christ, our source of hope, peace and joy and continue our prayer as he taught us to pray...

**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.**

CLOSING SONG***May You Find a Light***

The Brilliance

***Lost and weary traveler,
searching for the way to go
Stranger heavy hearted
longing for someone you know
May you find a light (3x)
To guide you home***

*There are weary travelers
searching everywhere you go
Strangers who are searching
longing deeply to be known
May you find a light (3x)
To guide you home*

*May you find a light (3x)
To guide you home*

BENEDICTION

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's glorious name forever; may the glory of the Lord fill the whole
earth. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Thank you to Mona Dowell, and Eddie Adams for providing the music and technical
support for our worship podcast.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray for these Members, Relatives and Friends.

Please note these newer prayer concerns:

James Brown, who has a fractured radial head on his right elbow.

We continue to pray for:

Pat Lindsay
Charolette Brown
Dan Grassi
Inez Ruchte
Donna Nichols

Rachel Williams
Libby Morton
Aleta Wheeler
Jeane Nagel
Andrew Scharfe

Sandra Richbourg
Dick Grassi
Barbara Settlemyre
Joe Moody
Dave Smith

We continue to pray for these family and friends of Saint Giles members:

Sallie Taylor's sister, Janet
Jan Morgan's daughter, Anna
Betty Fetvedt's sister, Peggy
Marti Ranney's friend Sherrill
Janet Wherry's sons David & Stephen, & her sister Ev
Rachel & Rodney Williams' daughter, Rene
Pat & Bob Lindsay's granddaughter Rebecca, niece Stephanie & family, sister Eloise Rohner,
& niece Eloise Lindsay
Chris Zaineddin's friend Peggy, nieces Colleen, & Sourour Dehnadi, brother Ken, & friend
Paul Hutter & family
Dave & Rita Hart's friend Terry, and neighbors Sarah and Wayne
Roberta Dibble's friend Margaret Rothman
Carmen Rosa, along with Tania Valentine & Maurice Kersey
Friends of Hess & Hart families, Max & Leatha Carey & family, & Allen Lee & Family
Kimberly & Chad Craven's friend & her family
Kathy & Bob Wolinski's daughter, Amy
Cindy Hemminger & family following her 5 year old cousin Hazel's diagnosis with Leukemia
Donald and Nancy Ross' friend Terri McIrvine, and her husband and daughters
Mary Ellen Jackson's cousin Betty Turner
Scott Vollmer's mother, Lois
Nathan Whittle's aunt Pauline and her son
Carol Pope's sister, Kathy; brother, David; sister-in-law, Kacy

*requests in bold have been recently added or are in need of special prayer.