

First Presbyterian Church
December 17, 2023

Joy
3rd Sunday in Advent

Morrison, Illinois
10:15AM

Enter This Church That We Might Worship Together!

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PRELUDE

THE GATHERING WELCOME

Pastor: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

People: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ

INTROIT *O Come, O Come Emanuel*

No. 9 Vs. 1

MINISTER’S MINUTE

OPENING PRAYER & MOMENT FOR MEDITATION

“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.’” —Luke 1:47-55

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively) (Psalms 126)

Pastor: 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.”

People: The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Pastor: Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

People: 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.

***HYMN** *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

No. 22

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Lord God, what joys you have given to us in our life! What wonders you have performed! How much you give to us. Yet we become distracted in life and begin to focus on the negative. We forget to celebrate the joys and dwell upon the concerns. In such, we let life pass us by and do not enjoy it for all it is. Forgive us, we pray.....*Silent prayer followed by ‘Amen’.*

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Unison)

Joy will always be a human emotion as God’s endless love will always be with us. Each day we are given the opportunity to begin again and be filled with the wonders of God’s love. In this love we are forgiven and joy is ours to have. Praise be to God, amen!

HYMN

Glory Be to the Father (Gloria Patri)

No. 579

TIME WITH THE GROWING CHURCH

(Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer (p. 16))

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE *Joy*

The Reynolds

GOSPEL READING

John 1:6-8, 19-34

MEDITATION

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Hymn

What Child Is This

No. 53

Scripture Reading

Matthew 26:26-29

Distribution of the Elements

Pastoral Prayer

OFFERING OF TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

***HYMN** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (Doxology)*

No. 592

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION (Unison)

We thank you Lord for life and all you have given us. Thank you for giving us the ability to be joyous. Help us take what you have given us and pass it on to others so the joy we receive from you may be shared by all. Amen.

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 38

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE**

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*greeting: “Peace be with you,” response: “and also with you”*)

*You are invited to stand for this portion.

**Please remain seated until the conclusion of the postlude.

The Bible verses are read from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV).

† † † † †

Depart This House That We Might Witness Together!

Remember in prayer: Individuals and families fighting COVID-19 infection; residents and staff of Resthove, Homestead and Pleasant View; medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Bev & Larry Bealer, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Janet Johnson, Ken Mills, Youdelka Philippe (MSH), Margie Selburg, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Rachael Tucker, Ray Tucker

Love one another!

Livestream Worship Services

Each Sunday at 10:15am from the church's Facebook group page: www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison. And after the service on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresmorrison>

Bible Study We will meet Tuesdays at 9:30am at Pleasant View. Rick Barr will lead the weeks that Pastor Mike is unavailable.

Drive-Up Meal The next meal will be on January 25. We will be serving Beef and Veggie Soup. Meal begins at **4:30PM**. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30pm and Thursday starting at 3:30pm.

STAFF

Pastor. Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg
Office Manager. Stacie Baker
Organist. Scott Vandermyde
Custodian. Courtney Bruckner

SESSION ELDERS:

Lynn Knox	Tim Reynolds	Carol Wolf
Lexie Laughlin	Ron Shank	Deb Zigler
Angela Reamer	Scott Vandermyde	Stacie Baker, Clerk



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*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord,
to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins, t
hey shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
The devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness
and praise to spring up before all the nations.*

—Isaiah 61:1-4; 8-11