

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church

Online Worship Service

December 13, 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

GATHERING ...

The Ringing of the Bell Words of Welcome

PREPARING ...

Call to Worship

The Sherby-Zavala Family

Our Advent candles this year represent four gifts that God gives us – Peace, Justice, Joy, and Salvation. These gifts are God’s vision for how our world *should* be. We are invited this year to receive peace, justice, joy, and salvation as the gifts they are and spend time each week reflecting on how to use each gift to help build a better world.

Today we continue the season of Advent by lighting the third candle in our Advent wreath: THE GIFT OF JOY.

The prophet Isaiah writes: *Everlasting JOY shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Joy is ultimately about recognizing and experiencing God’s presence in our lives, a presence that puts everything else in a different perspective. Joy is trusting in the goodness of God in spite of the meanness of our present age.

As we light our third candle let us consider how God is present in our lives and we may be JOY to the world.

Let us pray together:

JOYful, JOYful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love. Our hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. You melt the clouds of sin and sadness, and drive the dark of doubt away. You are the giver of immortal gladness, filling us with the light of day. Amen.

Call to Confession and Prayer

Now is the time to wake from sleep.

Salvation is near. Let us confess our sins:

God of Love, we have turned away from you, neglecting the welfare of your creation, ignoring the plights of your people, and taking from the Earth what we cannot give back. We have not helped our neighbors in need, kept joy within our families, or tended the vine you have planted in our own lives. Forgive us and lead us to a more gracious life. In your compassion, turn us to your way. Restore us, O Lord, God of hosts; let your Joy shine upon us, and we shall be saved. In Christ’s name, hear our silent prayers of return

(A Time of Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Response, No. 1

Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus (stanza 1)

*Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.*

STUTTGART

HEARING ...

Scripture	Isaiah 35:1-4a		
Sermon	OUR GIFT OF JOY		<i>Rev. Joel Weible</i>
Anthem	<u>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</u>	<i>PVPC Quintet</i>	BENJAMIN HARLAN

RESPONDING ...

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

In a broken and fearful world, God's Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God and empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and faithful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and earth, saying: "Come Lord Jesus!"

Time of Giving Thanks

Announcements
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

SENDING ...

Charge and Benediction

Benediction Response

Our flowers this morning are dedicated to the Glory of God

This Week's Birthday: Brian Phillips (12/13)

To dedicate flowers for an upcoming Sunday, contact the Church Office at 241-4326