



Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church
Third Sunday of Advent, Year B
<http://www.lectionarypage.net/index.html>
17 December 2017 at 10:45

+ + + GATHERING + + +

Prelude

Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,
welcome home, children of God. The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Announcements

1. The Christmas Joy Offering will be received next Sunday, December 24. This offering has provided assistance to church workers and their families since the 1930s, and has supported Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges for about 140 years.
2. The Christmas Cantata will be next Sunday morning!
3. There will be a special Christmas Eve service, led by Emily Morrell and Olivia Marenco, 6 pm, followed by light refreshments. Please bring a favorite goodie or Christmas treat to share.
4. If you would like to add a rock to the pile in the basket (either silently or sharing a few words) to celebrate God making his presence and faithfulness known in a special way, you are invited to do so during the announcement time.

Choral Introit

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Speaker 1: The light glowing from our Advent wreath is burning brighter. This radiance warms our hearts and fills us with joy! The Lord has done great things for us. Let us rejoice.

Speaker 2: "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." [Psalm 126:5-6]

The first three candles are lit.

Speaker 3: Light three candles, see them glow
Brightly, so that all may know
How three candles show the way
Making our darkness bright as God's day.

Speaker 4: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

Call to Worship (*Isaiah 61:10, 11*)

I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God.
For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.
For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow,
So the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we carry many burdens and worry over many things. Help us to hear your promise in this Advent season, that in hearing, we may receive the Spirit's gift of joy. And may our spirits be kept sound at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

†Hymn 117: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

†Call to Confession (from *John 1:14*)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Confident in the graciousness and truthfulness of the Father, revealed fully in the Son, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

†Prayer of Confession

God of the future, you are coming in power to bring all nations under your rule. We confess that we have not expected your kingdom, for we live casual lives, ignoring your promised judgment. We accept lies as truth, exploit neighbors, abuse the earth, and refuse your justice and peace. In your mercy, forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your way, and to seek things that will endure when Christ comes to judge the world. Amen.

†Declaration of Forgiveness (from *1 Thessalonians 5:23-24*)

God himself sanctifies us, and keeps our whole spirits blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls us is faithful, and he will do it.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

†The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As God is generous in mercy, let us also be generous in mercy toward one another. Let us share the peace of Christ.

+++ LITURGY OF THE WORD +++

†Prayer for Illumination (*Hymn #452*)

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord. Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see you; I want to see you; (repeat)
to see you high and lifted up, shining in the light of your glory.
Pour out your power and love as we sing “Holy, holy, holy.”
Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy, I want to see
you.

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2:1-20

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Choral Anthem

Children's Time

Sermon:

The Wonder of It All

†Hymn 119 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

Prayers of the People

... God, as we ponder the awe-inspiring gift of your Son and his grace-giving presence and ministry, we ask that you attune our hearts to the profound indwelling of your Spirit. Help us to recognize your Spirit in and around us. Lead us to embody your true and perfect love. Train us, in each and every encounter, to seek your face in neighbors and strangers alike.

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.

+++ LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST +++

Offering

By his Spirit, God opens our eyes to the generosity of his hand, nurtures us in all spiritual gifts, and fills us with gratitude overflowing, that we may share life and love.

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth.

†Doxology (Tune #606)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

†Prayer of Dedication and Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, eternal God, that you came to us in Jesus Christ.

**We eagerly await his coming again that his rule may be complete
and your righteousness reign over all the world.**

By your Spirit, claim our complete loyalty.

**Accept our homage as we offer our lives in the service of Christ's
kingdom. He is Lord forever and ever. Amen.**

+++ SENDING +++

†Hymn 113: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Charge and Blessing

†Congregational Response:

**May the road rise to meet you; may the wind blow at your back;
may the sun shine warmly on your face;
may the rain fall softly on your fields;
and until we meet again, until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.**

Postlude

† Please rise in body or in spirit.

Contact information for Rev. Dr. Christine T. Bohn, Interim Pastor:

pastorchris@trpctn.org

The congregation of Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church extends a warm welcome to all who are joining in worship this morning for the first time or the first time in a long time. Our prayer is that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:17-19).

+++ INTERCESSORY PRAYER LIST (12/17/17) +++

Prayer Requests

Sandra Carter - cancer
Vicki Trentham - cancer
Johanna - wisdom and provision
Lori Askew - treatment didn't take;
evaluating options
Negetha - healing
Ethan Self - truth/justice in appeal process
Susan Roberts
Glenwood Elementary School & Project
Ken Martin - cancer
Jerry Cohen - cancer
TeNisha - on dialysis; needs kidney
Ruth's mom (dementia) and sister
(caregiving)
Diane Morrell - health
Jamie - throat cancer

Phyllis Webb - health (pancreatic cancer)
David Hale - health (lung cancer)
Nick Vallie - health; progressing & looking
for rehab facility
Amy - health
Jennifer - aggressive breast cancer
Mike Carlton - health
Tony - cancer
Rodney - at Brookdale
Toni B. - starting radiation treatments
Zelma - health
Stella H. - health
Charles Bowers - healing
Joyce W. - health
Patsy Gordon - chemo treatments
Hilda Jones - health
Matt's family - adoption of baby Silas

Praise Reports

Glenwood Outreach Project - First meal for the basketball teams served December 7!
Charlie H. - thanks for all prayers, calls, cards; grateful for church family

***Prayer requests stay on printed list for about two weeks, unless specifically requested to continue.

**++ Food Bank: December is
canned vegetables. Box in
narthex. ++**

++ Samaritan's Purse: Pray for the
recipients of Christmas shoeboxes. ++

+ + Glenwood Outreach + +

- Glenwood Principal, Mrs. Whitson:
"Thank you so much for reaching out to our school. We would love to grow this relationship with your church and our community."
- Glenwood classroom volunteers will require a \$35 background check. Mrs. Whitson is currently matching teachers with days volunteers are available. Stay tuned for more info!
- Clothing needs: 10-20 children.

++ Events ++

- **Cantata & Christmas Joy Offering** - Sunday, December 24, 2017.
- **Special Christmas Eve Service** - Sunday, December 24, 6:00pm, followed by light refreshments.
- **Presbyterian Women** - Tuesday, January 9, 7pm, at Leeanne's house.
- **Intercessory Prayer Group**, Thursday afternoons at 1:00, in the fellowship hall. Please share requests during worship today or leave a written note in the offering plate. **Will not meet December 28.**
- **Sunday School**, 9:30am, in the fellowship hall; studying the Book of Acts. **Will not meet December 24 or December 31.**

