

*Joy* in Knowing Jesus  
through the Presence of  
the Holy Spirit

John 15:11 ... that My joy may  
remain in you, and that your  
joy may be full !

New Covenant Presbyterian Church  
December 11, 2022                      Worship Service



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# The Worship of God

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader: Jane Adams

Sharing of Our Vision

**Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude....**

*Whom do you seek when you come to worship? What do you want? How willing are you to have your life transformed by the Spirit of God? Are you truly willing to receive the gift of love incarnate in your heart, and are you willing to sacrifice what it takes to actually receive this precious gift? Do you understand what really matters in the life of a disciple of Christ? If you want – LOVE – LIGHT – JOY – PEACE – and HOPE in your life – if what you truly desire is for Christ to be born anew within you, then stay and worship this day, opening your heart to listen for God's Word to you – the One who is the logos among us.*

## Preparing to Meet God

**Call to Worship**     *The Third Week of Advent – God's Promised Day of Delight or Joy Can't Wait*     *Lighting of the Advent Wreath: Pam Kidd & Cheryl Shields*



**Leader 1:**     **I will wait for a promotion.**  
**Leader 2:**     ***I will wait for the sequel.***  
**Leader 3:**     **I will wait for space to grow.**  
**Leader 1:**     ***I will wait for the phone to ring or the email to arrive.***  
**Leader 2:**     **I will wait for you to ask.**  
**Leader 3:**     ***I will wait for them to call my name.***

**Leader 1:**     **I will wait for the water to boil.**  
**Leader 2:**     ***I will wait for the text to come through.***  
**Leader 3:**     **I will wait for the second season of my favorite show.**  
**Leader 1:**     **I will wait for the beat to drop.**  
**Leader 2:**     **I will wait for Christmas to arrive.**  
**Leader 3:**     **I will wait for a lot of things, but I will no longer wait for joy.**  
**Leader 1:**     **In a world where suffering and violence plague the news, I will choose to delight in that which is good.**  
**Leader 2:**     **This week, we light the Candle of Joy to remind us that darkness does not have the last word. May this light guide and inspire us as we work to spread God's joy and delight throughout this world.     *(Light the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle)***  
**ALL:**     ***Amen!***

## Opening Prayer

*Loving God, when the sun rises what shall we sing? "My soul magnifies the Lord." And when chaos and violence echo on the screen? It is then that you call us to sing out "My soul magnifies the Lord." For you are a God of justice and peace, so when all is wrong, or all is right, what are we to do? You want us to sing out "My soul magnifies the Lord." It is right and good that when all is wrong or right, we will sing with joy and delight of our God of justice and love and peace for "My soul magnifies the Lord!" Amen.*

## \*Hymn of Praise # 5

### *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*1-Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.*

*2-King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful, his own self for heavenly food.*

*3-Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
As the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
That the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears a way.*

*4-At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry,  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High!*

## Prayer of Confession

**L:** In front of God and this church, **I** confess that I am quick to complain – quick to criticize and conform – quick to forget – quick to doubt and deny. Instead of singing praise, too often I stay silent.

**P:** **May the God of shepherds and kings, the God of starlight and new life, offer you grace and show you the way home. But we need to confess as well because we too confess that we are quick to complain – quick to criticize and conform – quick to forget – quick to doubt and deny. Instead of singing praise, too often we stay silent.**

**L:** May the God of shepherds and kings, the God of starlight and new life, offer every one of us grace and show you the way home.

**P:** **Amen.**

## Assurance of Pardon

**L:** Hear the Good News: Anyone who says they are without sin deceives himself, and the truth is not within him. But if anyone desires to be forgiven, all that is need is to ask, and it shall be given.

**P:** ***We have asked to be forgiven, and God assures us that our forgiveness has been granted. Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift!***

**A:** ***Alleluia, Amen.***

## Meeting God in the Word

### Children's Message/Prayer for Illumination

#### First Lesson

*James 5: 7-12*

*Patience in Suffering*

*Lay Leader*



*Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient.*

*Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the*

*name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. Above all, my beloved, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your 'Yes' be yes and your 'No' be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** ***Thanks be to God.***

### Special Music

#### Second Lesson

*Matthew 11: 2-11*

*Jesus Praise John the Baptist*

*Carol*



*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'*

*As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and*

*more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you." Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.*

**L:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**P:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

*The Unexpected Jesus*

## Responding to the Word

**\*Hymn**

*There Is a Mighty Question*

Sung to the tune of *I Sing the Mighty Power of God #288*



*1-There is a mighty question we ask when nations rage:  
Just when will be Christ's coming, the ending of the age?  
Take care, said Jesus clearly, for many will appear;  
They'll claim to be Messiah, yet people should not fear.*

*2-For in the days of Noah, the people went along  
In eating and in drinking is merriment and song.  
Then suddenly the world changed with great surprising power:  
So too will be Christ's coming and no one knows the hour.*

*3-So keep awake and watchful; salvation is at hand!  
Our hope is in Christ Jesus, and by God's grace we stand.  
The night is almost over, we wait for God's new day,  
And through the Holy Spirit, we follow Jesus' way.*

*4-Be ready in your living, for when you feed the poor,  
Or give to thirsty children the water they long for,  
And when you welcome strangers and help the ones in need,  
Christ says, "Receive my kingdom, for you are serving me."*

### \*Litany of Faith

L: We ask in our hearts – Is Jesus the One for whom we have waited?

**P: *Or shall we look for another?***

L: Our limbs are freed that they may walk;

**P: *Give us the heart to walk in the Way of Christ***

L: Our eyes are opened that they may see;

**P: *Give us the heart to see the truth, and to give thanks for it.***

L: Our souls are touched that they may live;

**P: *Give us the heart to live the lives for which we were created.***

**A: *We ask in our hearts – Is he the One? Or shall we look for another?***

***Open our mouths, O God, that we may bear the glad tidings everywhere we go, and to every person we meet. The Word dwells among us, O world. Come and rejoice with us!***

### Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Cares Chorus: *I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet. And anytime I don't know what to do, I cast all my cares upon you.*

### The Call to Celebrate Our Gifts

*Prayer of Dedication: Receive this offering today, O God, as a symbol of our commitment. Receive your church assembled here before you as a body prepared to be moved by the Spirit to do your will in our time and place. Through Christ we pray. Amen.*

## Going Out to Serve

### \*Hymn of Praise # 10     *On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*



*1-On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

*2-Then cleansed he every life from sin; make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.*

*3-We hail you as our Savior, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward;  
O let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.*

*4-All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won,  
Whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore.*

### Blessing

**L:** Intelligent belief dares to ask questions. True faith allows room for honest doubt. Expect resistance when you question any status quo, be it religious, political, cultural, familial, or even your own long-held assumptions.

**P:** *We will follow Christ on the path he has shown us, and placed inside our hearts, no matter where it leads.*

**A:** *And, as a result, we will know and experience the JOY of Christ in our lives@*

**L:** May the blessings...

### Response

*He Is Lord*

