



Cranston Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SHARED JOYS AND CONCERNS

INTROIT AND REKINDLING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP AND LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

One: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." The world says, "Worry," and we say, "Rejoice." The news says, "Fear," and we say, "Rejoice." The world says, "Be happy," and the church says, "Be faithful." As we light our third Advent candle,

All: **We pray for hope, peace, and joy.**

One: Come now, O child of Mary.

All: **Come now, O Prince of Joy.**

HYMN # 36 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, we praise you for sending light into this world. We confess that we live as though the light had never defeated darkness. We confess that we ignore the Savior you sent to be among us and to live in us. We've kept the birth of your Son confined to the Christmas season and do not yearn for his coming each moment in our waiting hearts. Forgive us for not opening our eyes to Jesus. Prepare us for His return. Help us rejoice in the light so that your grace can illuminate the darkened places of our hearts. Amen.



SILENT CONFESSION

**All: O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us we pray.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I declare to all who confessed their sins, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

* GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning it is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Startle us, O God, with your truth, and open our minds to your Spirit, that we may be one with Christ our Lord and serve as faithful disciples, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, fear not!

Behold, your God
will come with vengeance,
with the recompense of God.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then shall the lame man leap like a hart,
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;



the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,^[a]
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ And a highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not pass over it,^[b]
and fools shall not err therein.

⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

James 5: 7-11

⁷ Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain. ⁸ You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. ⁹ Do not grumble, brethren, against one another, that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the doors. ¹⁰ As an example of suffering and patience, brethren, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

SERMON

“While We’re Waiting”

Rev. Dr. David Fisher

ADVENT PRAYER

All: Who are we, Lord God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us in your Son. As we prepare to celebrate his birth, make our hearts lead for joy at the sound of your word, and move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works. We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

HYMN # 44

“ ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures here below.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.



*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation and deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen

SENDING

HYMN # 464

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

THE BLESSING

Session Members:

Don Kissinger	Building & Grounds	513-232-1538
Greg Roberts	Session Clerk	513-497-0492
	President of the Corporation	
	Nominating	
Martha Misheff	Ruling Elder	513-609-6890
Ruth Saylor	Treasurer	513-553-4031
 Karen Roberts	Musician	513-633-1964
Mike Findlan	Outreach / Chimes, NRAM	513-553-3149
Jackie Nelson	Christian Ed, Mission, Worship and Music	513-546-9083
Bob Lees	Ruling Elder	513-310-3069
Rev. David Annett	Minister	513-477-9723

Thank you to today's liturgist: Martha Misheff

