

**MAPLEWOOD
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



*Today's flowers were provided by
Jennifer Sereda and Art Smith.*

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT

Congregational Response:

We rejoice in you, O Lord, because you keep your promises. Deepen our joy as we wait, and help us to hear your good news as you fill our lives with your loving Spirit. Amen.

HYMN *Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn*

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn,
for angels herald its dawning.
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born,
behold! the Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor,
to bring all hearts together,
he opens wide the heavenly door,
and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear,
Emmanuel comes a-singing;
whose humble song is quiet and near,
yet fills the earth with its ringing;
music to heal the broken soul
and hymns of loving kindness.
The thunder of his anthems roll
to shatter all hatred and violence.

In darkest night Christ's coming shall be,
when all the world is despairing,
as morning light so quiet and free,
so warm and gentle and caring.
Then shall the mute break forth in song,
a lame shall leap in wonder,
the weak are raised above the strong,
and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.
Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.
Love be our song, and love our prayer,
and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share
and bring us at last into glory.



ADVENT PRAYER OF PREPARATION

**In this season of waiting, of longing,
of looking for you to come into our world
we are seeking light.**

In our individual lives

we are seeking light.

In our neighborhoods

we are seeking light.

In our work

we are seeking light.

In our nation

we are seeking light.

In our world

we are seeking light

In... (add your own longings)

we are seeking light.

**Jesus, you are the light of the world;
may we have eyes to see you
and ears to hear you.
Come into our world today.**

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 40:1

Comfort, comfort now my people, says your God.

Beloved, know this:

Your sins are forgiven.

The Lord, Emmanuel, abides with you.

The peace announced by the angels is at hand.

Thanks be to God!

PRAYERS OF PEACE

Pray the peace of Christ for family and loved ones,
neighbors and acquaintances,
friends and enemies,
people and places around the world.



RESPONSE *Wait for the Lord*

This Advent song comes from the Taizé community, founded in 1940 as an ecumenical monastic order of both catholic and protestant folks, located in Burgundy, France. The songs that they write and sing are simple, meditative chant-like prayers. They are meant to be sung as prayers, and repeated so that the words have opportunity to sink in and move from our heads into our hearts. Let this song slow you down in mind and heart, and prepare you for the coming of Christ.

*Wait for the Lord,
whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord;
keep watch; take heart.*

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 1:39-55

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE *Choosing Joy*

HYMN *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King;

let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,

nor thorns infest the ground;

he comes to make his blessings flow

far as the curse is found,

far as the curse is found,

far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders of his love,

And wonders, wonders, of his love.



PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray for all in need this day, and for our world,
especially at this time of coronavirus pandemic...

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

With Mary we declare that you have done, and are
doing, great things for us. Bless all we offer you—
ourselves, our time, our treasure—that through us
your grace and favor may be made known, for the
sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.



CAROL *While by the Sheep We Watched*

While by the sheep we watched at night,
glad tidings brought an angel bright.

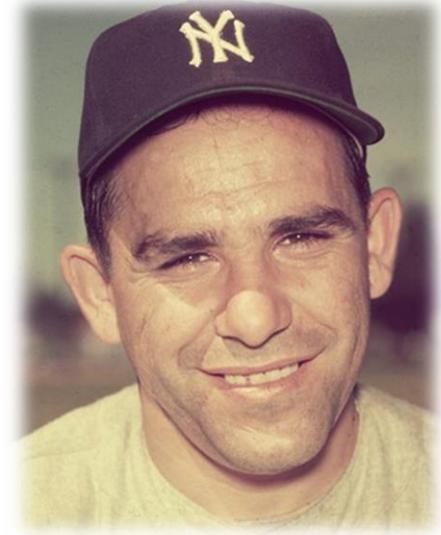
Refrain:

How great our joy!
Great our joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

There shall be born, so he did say,
in Bethlehem a child today. **[Refrain]**

There shall the child lie in a stall,
this child who shall redeem us all. **[Refrain]**

This gift of God we'll cherish well,
that ever joy our hearts shall fill. **[Refrain]**



BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21

