

# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street

East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301

570-421-5821

(\*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)  
Live-Streamed

All services are

### December 17, 2023

#### Service for the Lord's Day

### Third Sunday in Advent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Immanuel”

WORDS & MUSIC BY MICHAEL CARD

### GATHERING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the presence of the Holy, let us gather with hearts attuned to the joy that Mary knew.

**P: We come with hearts ready to rejoice.**

L: Mary's heart echoed with joy when she cradled the promised Messiah in her arms.

Let the joy of Mary become our melody of gratitude and wonder.

**All: We enter into worship with joy, for the Lord is in our midst!**

Advent Candle Lighting- **Joy**

\*HYMN NO. 41

“O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!”

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**In the midst of our tasks and responsibilities, remind us of the profound joy found in Your presence. Like Mary, may our souls magnify the goodness that surrounds us, and may our spirits rejoice in the simple beauty of each moment. Grant us the grace to share this joy with those we encounter, becoming bearers of glad tidings in a world that thirsts for Your light. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM

“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks/Still, Still, Still”

ARR, LANI SMITH

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, in our pursuit of joy, we confess moments when our focus shifted from You. Forgive us for times when we allowed worries to overshadow the joy that comes from Your promises. In moments of challenge, forgive our tendency to rely on our strength rather than finding joy in trusting Your plan. Forgive us for missed opportunities to share Your love with those who need it most. Grant us a repentant heart, O God. Redirect our focus to the wellspring of joy found in Your presence. May the joy of Mary inspire us to seek and share Your light even in the midst of our imperfections. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

☐ **Moment for Silent Reflection** ☐

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

(Pg. 581 in red hymnal)

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

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,**

**World without end, amen. Amen.**

\*THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

HYMN NO.98

“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”

verses 1,2, 3 & 6

## THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

*Isaiah 12:2-3 (Pg. 641)*

NEW TESTAMENT

*Luke 1:26-56 (Pg. 56)*

L: Word of God for the people of God

**P: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Mary’s Joy”

Pastor Nicki

HYMN NO. 93

“Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates”

## SENDING

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

DOXOLOGY

**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.**

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

HYMN NO. 611

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Holly And The Ivy”

CAROL TORNQUIST

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PRAYER REQUESTS: Please use the blue prayer request cards in the pews for your prayer requests. Place them in the offering plate so the Pastor can include them in the Pastoral Prayer.

LAY READER for today is Linda Schaller.

GREETER for today is Jacoby Carmella.

THE FLOWERS this week are given by Ron and Connie Powell in memory of their parents.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS this week are Zoey Delaney and Hollie Falzone.

CELEBRATING AN ANNIVERSARY this week are Ron and Connie Powell.

## Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure     Ellie Buff  
Sandra Rydell     Judy Schreck     Jim Hall  
Phil Lawrence     Debbie Prince     Lisa Swanson

## Church Staff

Nicole Vogel  
Jen Carmella  
Linda Schaller  
Sami Carmella  
Keith Karkut

Pastor  
Secretary  
Music Director  
Nursery Attendant  
Technology/Custodian

## THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today

~ Adult Education, 9:00  
~ Choir rehearsal, 9:00  
~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
~ Fellowship Hour – cookie exchange!  
~ Youth Baking at Christ Presbyterian, 1:00-4:00

Monday

~ Nexus deadline

