

OPENING PRAYER

Prepare our heart, O God, for the coming of Jesus Christ, your Son. Deepen our joy who now makes ready for the anniversary of His lowly birth at Bethlehem. By true faith in Him, who is the desire of the nations, the promise of the prophets, the Prince of Peace, the Redeemer of people, may we rightly welcome Him as the savior of our souls and the Lord of our lives, Amen.

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Love Came Down at Christmas” Chris Koesel

DOXOLOGY (tune - “What Child Is This”)

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Generous God, the bounty of your joy overflows into every aspect of our lives. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to share our joy with those in need. May the offerings we bring this day symbolize our trust in your power to heal the world through the works of our hands and the ministries of your church. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

SPRC GIFTS PRESENTATION Judy Arthurs

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAMATION

INTRODUCTION TO THE HANGING OF THE GREENS Barbara Cooley Thaw

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Come Let Us Worship the King” Tommy Walters, Eli Nitzberg
Diana Spencer, Rebecca Spencer

EVERGREEN WREATHS Reader: Jean McQuade

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “The First Noel” Eli Nitzberg

POINSETTIA Reader: Sue Irons

ANTHEM “Glad Noel” Chancel Choir

ADVENT WREATH Reader: David Morgan

Reader: Joy, in the midst of despair – the joy of Christmas is sometimes a stark contrast to those who may be feeling more despair and grief at this time of year.

People: In a world where joy is a distant memory, we call upon our God of joy to come.

Reader: In this season of Advent, we wait for the coming of joy into our world. We await the birth of the Anointed One, the Promised Child, who comes into our lives in a new way.

(tune – “Away in the Manger”)

**Light three Advent candles and know from the start,
That joy can be busting right out of your heart.
Light three Advent candles and wait for the morn.
When new birth will happen and light will be born.**

Reader: Take a deep breath and reflect on those who are having a hard time in this Advent/Christmas season. (perhaps it is you). (Silence)

PRAYER

Dear God, we pray for the joy that is found in Jesus, that those who seek it may truly find it. May we celebrate in the joy found in You. Amen.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Come and See the King” Women’s Chorus
Lyrics and Music by Ron Brand

HOLLY Reader: Jared Lordon

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “The Holly and the Ivy” Men’s Chorus

NATIVITY SCENE Reader: Judy Arthurs

MINISTRY OF MUSIC “Away in the Manger” Children’s Choir

LIGHTS

Reader: Gail Gratton

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

“The Birthday of a King”

Tommy Walters

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*CHARGE AND DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastor: Practice Joy!

People: We will practice joy by reaching wide and opening our hearts.

Pastor: Practice Joy!

People: We will practice joy with an affirming dance of our life stories.

Pastor: Practice Joy!

People: We will practice joy through a thankful heart.

Pastor: Practice Joy!

People: We will practice joy by celebrating the aliveness of the present.

Pastor: Practice Joy!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:

“The First Noel”

No. 245 (Refrain)

**Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel!**

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel”

(sing twice)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
His name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us,
His name is called Emmanuel.**

POSTLUDE

“We Praise, O Christ, Your Holy Name”

S. Scheldt

This service is dedicated to Kim Weber Slobodnyak.

Kim was raised as a Mifflin Avenue Methodist and throughout her lifetime, she was an active member and dedicated volunteer for all things MAUMC. Some of the positions she held included MYF leader, Church Council president, Kitchen Guru (along with her forever sidekick, Nick) and Women’s Circle president. Near and dear(est) to her heart was the annual Hanging of the Greens service. Her passionate leadership shone brightest when she stood in the back of the sanctuary, directing and smiling at all who participated. Thank you for sharing in this Advent Service and continuing Kim’s Lasting Legacy. I would like to express my gratitude to all – young and old(er), regulars and visitors, those who live nearby and those who traveled to attend. We appreciate you sharing your gifts with us today and coming together.

~~Barbara Cooley Thaw



Third Sunday of Advent HANGING OF THE GREENS

December 12, 2021

Pastor Russel contact information:

Phone: (412) 735-5072

Email: Shulugarussel@gmail.com

**Those who are able are invited to stand*

PRELUDE

“Oh Rejoice, All Christians Loudly”

T. Beck

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN AND BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT

No. 196

“Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine
all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

*Call to Worship

Pastor: Today, we come together to prepare for the birthday of the king.

People: Today, we make ready our welcome for God’s only Son, Jesus of Nazareth.

Pastor: We continue this special and holy season of Advent, the season of going toward the birth of Christ.

People: As we renew the special meaning of the Advent season, the season of going toward new home and eternal life.

Pastor: Let our songs and symbols represent our personal rededication to the glory of God and the manifestation of His love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

All: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.