

Memorial Presbyterian Church

*HEAVEN & NATURE SING:
300 YEARS OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"*

REPEAT THE SOUNDING JOY:

Loving Joy

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 8, 2019

PHOTO BY MONIKA SCHRODER FROM PIXABAY

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

**Almighty God,
You set before us the way of goodness
and beckon us to follow you,
but we disregard your teachings
and disobey your word.
You call people of every land to dwell in harmony,
but we sow division and harvest discord.
You command us to craft tools that sustain life,
but we cling to weapons that damage and destroy.
Forgive us, Lord.
Your creation yearns for wholeness;
your people long for justice and peace.
Keep us ever watchful
and awaken us to your ways
as we wait in hope for the light of the world.**
(Time of silent reflection)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

*THE PEACE

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Gloria
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Hymnal, No. 113

RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts."

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Trudy Beard

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 558

ANTHEM

A Waiting Prayer

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:1-15

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Page No. 784

MESSAGE

Loving Joy

Tracy L. Evans

*SONG OF FAITH

Love Has Come

Hymnal, No. 110

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal, p. 35

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

*DOXOLOGY

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise
**Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell everyone what God has done.
Let everyone who seeks the Lord
rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Hymnal, No. 648

*DEDICATION PRAYER

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our love, peace, hope, and joy to the world.

*SENDING SONG

You Shall Go Out with Joy

Hymnal, No. 80

*TAKING LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**We sing
We sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
Joy to the World
Heaven and nature sing
With joy
Loving joy**

*POSTLUDE

Rejoice the Lord is King

Craig Curry

*Please rise in body or spirit.

We invite anyone who wishes to consider membership in this church to contact the pastor or a member of the session. You may also indicate interest in membership by checking the appropriate column in the ritual of friendship booklet. Membership in this church is a step made by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith or transfer of church letter.

Lectionary Readings for December 15: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

The **Food and Shelter** item of the month for December is **soup and crackers** and cheese. Please place your donations in the box by the church information table.

Hearing-assistance devices and **large print hymnals** are available from the head usher.

Ushers for today's service are Jim Rodriguez and Tim Thiessen.

Mark your calendars for the **Christmas Potluck and Pageant** on Sunday, December 15 following worship.

This year we will be **providing Christmas gifts for the Women's Resource center**. Thank you to all who have picked up a list of desired items. Please bring all gifts (unwrapped) by Sunday, December 15.

Mark your calendars now for the **Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm** on Tuesday, December 24. It will be a JOYFUL celebration of lessons and carols and our traditional candlelight service

Reminder there is **no Kid's Club** on December 18 through January 8 for Christmas Break.

SUNDAY**December 8**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service

WEDNESDAY**December 11**

- 3:15 P.M. – Kids' Club
- 5:00 P.M. – Children's Choir
- 6:30 P.M. – Chancel Choir

SUNDAY**December 15**

- 9:30 A.M. – Sunday School
- 10:30 A.M. – Fellowship and Refreshments
- 10:55 A.M. – Worship Service
- 12:00 P.M. – Christmas Pageant and potluck
- 5:30 P.M. – Stewardship Committee

KNOWN JOYS & CONCERNS

Those who seek healing

Lola Carroll
Sandy Clarke
Jan Cunningham
Laura Eckel
Doug Forsyth
Blair Lanning
Judd Lanning
Jayelle Martin
Gary Thraikill
Jona Thiessen
Devyn Upton
Karen Upton
Janann Yeager
Darrell Hinson (Karen Upton's father)
Paul Gallagher (Karen Upton's biological father)
Carole Jo Evans (Tracy Evans' mother)
Jim Leseney (Vince Leseney's father)

Those who Experienced Recent Loss

Mike and Joan Cole whose brother Jim Cole died November

12.

Linda Eckel and family whose husband Jim Eckel died October 31.

Lisa Upton whose father Nolan Spaugy died on October 30.

Seminary Graduate

Samuel McCann, Pittsburgh Theo. Seminary

We lift up in prayer the country of Cameroon and pray for the unrest our brothers and sisters are experiencing there.

Birthdays

December 8– Troy Johnson

December 11– Jack Adams

December 13– Allen Silman

David Cole

December 15– Kenny Martin

Anniversaries

December 13– Kirk & Jessica Forthman

As part of the **ecumenical prayer cycle**, we ask you to pray for a particular region of the world each week:

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

We are **thankful** for:

- the recently-formed Lao Evangelical Church, and other Christians who bear witness in the region
- the many who have provided for humanitarian assistance and peace-building
- those who have remained in these countries through years of conflict and oppression
- refugees from these countries who are enriching the societies in which they now have made their home.

We **pray** for:

- those who continue to bear physical and emotional scars from years of conflict
- victims of monsoons and other disasters in the region
- economic development to improve life for all people and the environment
- political stability amid competing powers.