



RED HOOK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

***4 Church Street, Red Hook, New York 12571
845-758-6283 redhookumc@umcchurches.org***

***December 13, 2020 Worship Service
Third Sunday in Advent***



**Leading today's Worship Service
Organist Julianna O'Leary
Liturgist Joan Murray, Certified Lay Servant
Message by Kristi Colburn, Certified Lay Servant
Readers Lori Coon and Deborah Dunkle**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: *Deborah Dunkle and Lori Coon*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Reader One: We want everything to look nice: the decorations of the season, our homes with their lights and tinsel, wreaths and ribbons. We want to lighten the darkness around us, bring beauty to the ugliness that wears us down. We decorate, because it is tradition. Because it lifts our hearts. Because it makes us feel like children again. We deck our halls because company is coming.

Reader Two: The prophet Isaiah smiled when he said, “God will give a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, a mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.” No matter how far we feel from the spirit of the season, God promises to decorate us with love and with joy.

Reader One: We light these candles as a sign of our joy in the beautiful things of this season – not just the things that glitter and flash, but the deeper things, the beauty of the heart and the soul, the beauty of love shared in service and hospitality. We light this candle of joy because company is coming.

Reader Two: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

The Advent Song- “Light The Advent Candle” # 2090 TFWS, Verse 3

PRELUDE by *Julianna O’Leary*, “Rejoice Greatly O My Soul” Siegfried Karg Elert

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11)

ALL: We come to worship Christ

Leader: Who proclaims good news to the poor, binds up the broken-hearted, frees the prisoner and comforts those who mourn.

ALL: We come to worship Christ

Leader: Who bestows a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy Instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

ALL: We come to worship Christ

Leader: Who rebuilds ancient ruins and restores broken places.

ALL: We come to worship Christ

OPENING PRAYER

Come, Christ Jesus, be our guest, and may our lives by you be blest. Come, God-with-us, and free us from the false claims of the empires of this world. We are lonely for you and your peace. Come, Emmanuel, and dwell with us, make us your people indeed, the people through whom you bring love and justice to the world. Come, Jesus, and reign; claim your rightful place in our hearts and in the midst of our community. Plant the seeds of hope among us. Establish God's reign on earth. For we pray as you taught us that God's reign might come in fullness on earth.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

New Testament Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.”

Gospel Reading:

Luke 2:1-14 (NRSV)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child”

Response after reading-

Leader- The Word of God for the People of God

People- Thanks be to God

MESSAGE by *Kristi Colburn*, “Finding Joy on Journeys We Don’t Want to Take?”

JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

"The Lord will give what is good," says the psalmist. Let us share our tithes and offerings, in thanksgiving for what we have already received, and in the sure hope of an abundant world to come.

OFFERTORY GIVEN by Julianna O'Leary, "The Quiet Carol"
by Ellen Jane Lorenz

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

O God, who restores and makes new, let these gifts prepare the way: for good news proclaimed, for people comforted, and for the earth tended. Through our giving, may we all partake of an abundant yield of peace. We believe it will be so. Amen.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Sometimes, we are not ready for things to be made new. Help us, God, to imagine the new earth that you envision for our world. Help us see ourselves in it. Give us wisdom and courage to hasten the coming of your day. Amen.

(Time of silence) God is patient. Think of this as salvation. God speaks peace. All will be made well. Amen.

THE 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, And the glory, forever. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Mary Did You Know"

BENEDICTION

Go in peace; love and care for one another in the name of Christ; and may God the Father bless you richly, may Christ the Son pour the riches of his grace upon you, and may the Holy Spirit, our comfort and our support, lead you in the path of hope, peace, joy and love, both now & forevermore. Amen

POSTLUDE by Julianna O'Leary, "Festive Postlude" Harold De Cou

Announcements:

- December 12, 2:30-4:00 pm. Church Conference with Rev. Tim Riss, DS of NY/CT District. At 2:30 Rev. Riss meets with the SPRC and at 3:00 pm, the meeting for all. ZOOM contact information has been sent to everyone via email from Pastor Steve.
- Food Pantry is open Sundays at 12:00-2:00 pm.
- Pastor Steve is available for pastoral care visits, meeting at the church, homes, or other locations. Please feel free to call or email 914-329-7597 or at Pastor.stephen.ernst@gmail.com

t Abingdon Worship Annual 2020



***PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:
Our Pastor and Our Entire Congregation.
All of the NYAC staff and Cabinet.
Our Ministry and Churches around the World.
The Sick and those who continue to care for them.
Those who give their lives for our Country and
who protect us every day.
All people, animals, and communities of the world
as God created them.***

THOSE OF SPECIAL CONCERN AT THIS TIME:

Linda Ahlin, Maria Arleth, Gail Bamford, John Bamford,
Donna Marie Blanche, Jean Bleibtrey, Carol Boeck, Ken Bonal, Pete Buhler,
Gabiella and Gavin Btrtz, Lonaine DeCarolis, Doris, Terri & John Doyle,
Tracie Dedrick, Deborah Dunkle, Kay Egan, Beth Finn, Kay George,
Pastor Paul and Gloria Gingrich, Melissa and Myriam Godwin,
Mike Goodrich, the family of Sheryl Griffith, Irene Harrison,
the family of Rev. Russell Hartley, David Heller, Haley Hines,
Ron Jones, Phyllis Keeler, Ray Keeler, Julien: pray for sweet sleep,
Cynthia Morrison and her sister Cathy, David Muller, Caleb & Grady Nelson,
Carl Pack, Annalise Padley, Susan Roddy, Gene R. for continued healing,
Randall Stewart, Donna Schmidt, Kathy Stoppenbach, Diane Tanzosch,
Nancy Titus, the family of George Thiesen, Reverend Eric Titus, the family of
Skip Tremper, Ruth Van Vliet, Taylor Van Voorhis, Tony and Charlotte Vellake,

Mary Lou Williams, and Louise, Susie, Mary Beth, Bill, Marianne, and Rich