

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church

*A joyful community, gathered by God's grace,
sharing Christ's love with all.*



SERVICE OF WORSHIP

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

10:30 a.m.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

God of star and sign, lead us into the depths of mystery. Guide us in the way of forgiveness and place in us songs of joy, that we may carry your good tidings and great love to all the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRELUDE

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”
Don Burleson, Euphonium

arr. Curnow

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL TO WORSHIP – LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (The Candle of Joy)

The O’Neil Family: Jim, Erica, Caroline, and Paige

We have lit the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But this year many of us have anxiety and grief in our hearts as much or more as joy. That’s why we need to remember that joy comes from God not our surrounding circumstances. Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us that bubbles up through the grace of God. But joy is also a feeling we can cultivate through faith. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today, let us open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.... Please join me in prayer:

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us: you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

HYMN (GTG) 134

“Joy to the World”
Verses 1 and 4

(Antioch)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God, we confess that we are having a hard time getting in the holiday spirit this year. Your coming into the world changes everything. We know this with our minds. Forgive us then for responding with heavy hearts or autopiloted actions. We confess that this year we are easily overcome by our circumstances and focused more on what we lack than what we have gained by your grace. Forgive us, and let some joy loose in our hearts, we pray. By your Spirit enable us to smile like children at the twinkle lights around us. Bless us to experience the joy of singing carols and giving to those in need. Let us feel the love your embrace and the excitement of your pending arrival so that we may be fleet-footed messengers of your good news now and always, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(A time for silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

HYMN (GTG) 83 – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus,” Verse 3
*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
Born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 52:7-10; OT Page 683

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke 1:39-44; NT Page 57

SERMON

“Joy to the World”

Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

“Awake, Awake, Greet the New Morn”
Ruth Andrasco, Voice

Haugen

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (*A Declaration of Faith* 1977; Ch. 8, ¶2 through line 35)

God sends us to proclaim the gospel. God sent his Son to proclaim release to those who are bound, to announce that God's promised kingdom is at hand, to urge everyone to repent and believe the good news. The Lord is moving toward the time when the glorious liberty of the children of God will be manifest throughout the whole creation. We testify God is at work here and now when people obey Christ's commission to witness to him and make disciples of all nations, when they spread the good news by their words and embody it in their lives.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer family of the week: Jane Johnson

Prayer institution of the week: Harundale Presbyterian Church (Glen Burnie, MD)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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.

BENEDICTION

Welcome to Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church!

If you are looking for a friendly church...

- † where you will be loved and accepted regardless of your age, class, race, ethnicity or orientation...
- † where you will be challenged to reflect on your beliefs, acknowledge your doubts, ask your questions, and grow in your faith...
- † where God's desire for compassion, healing, reconciliation, justice and joy is preached...
- † where you are given the opportunity to put your faith into action through effective outreach ministries...

Then we hope to get to know you as a new friend at Prince of Peace. No matter who you are, or where you are in your life journey, you are welcome here! Join us and discover how much you are loved, how gifted you are, and how together, we can experience and share the kingdom of God here and now.

On behalf of everyone at Prince of Peace, WELCOME! We're glad you've found your way here today, and we hope you had a meaningful encounter with God while you were with us. Prince of Peace is a living faith community inspired by the Spirit of God, joyfully encouraging all and collectively committed to serving and caring for one another, praising God through worship, music, and mission, imparting to our children a love and understanding of Christ, welcoming all of God's people without prejudice or judgement, and growing together in numbers and in the likeness and grace of Christ.

If there is anything that we can do to make your visit more meaningful, or if there are any questions we can answer, please do not hesitate to let me know. I look forward to the chance to meet you following worship, and hope you will take a moment to introduce yourself.

Once again, welcome – we're glad you're here!

In Christ,
Pastor Elizabeth D. McLean

If you are in need of prayer, you may call Deacon Steven Kerry (410-279-6545) with your prayer request, and the Prayer Support Team will lift these concerns in prayer.

CVLI License #504276496, CCLI License #11384570, One License #P-729751

The church office is open Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Pastor	Rev. Elizabeth D. McLean
Parish Associate	Rev. Dorothy LaPenta
Director of Music	Suzann Barthold
Nursery Attendant/Teacher	Kyera Hooks
Office Administrator • Office Assistant	Susan Carmichael-Kerry • Amy Lindberg

Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church
1657 Crofton Parkway, Crofton, Md. 21114
410-721-2313; E-mail: church.office@popchurch.org
Website: www.popchurch.org; and on Facebook® at Prince of Peace Presbyterian Church and at Friends of POP