

Radio

JOY!



Sunday, December 17, 2023

10:00 am

Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

“Prepare the Royal Highway”

Wilbur Held

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOMING ONE ANOTHER

INTROIT

“Prepare the Way”

PREPARE THE WAY

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see the salvation of our God

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The DeRuyter Family

*HYMN NO. 88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o’er the grave.

Refrain

*OPENING PRAYER

Eternal God, in long ago days, your Son was born to lighten our darkness. Even so, we remain in bondage to signs of darkness. We doubt what we cannot prove; we ignore what we cannot see; and finding little room for faith, we must admit:

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News.

We are both affected and infected by the spirits of our times. Rather than embrace the light, we become fascinated by the darkness and we must admit.

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News.

Our cynicism is the fruit of our experience but is not the key to the future. Our suspiciousness helps us smell the rat but not to recognize the dove and we must admit.

We suspect angels and disbelieve Good News. As Christmas approaches, restore to us a child-like wonder. May we be like Mary and Joseph and the shepherds who encountered angels and believed the Good News and recognized Christ among them. Amen

THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

RADIO J-O-Y!

Words by Terry W. York Music by Vicki Hancock Wright

HYMN

“The Angel’s Song”

Gloria

1. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav’nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR OUR CHILDREN

Give thanks to God for all God's blessings,

God's love is everlasting!

Come, let us praise God joyfully,

Let us come to God with thanksgiving.

For children, for their energy, for their curiosity,

For their brave play and startling frankness.

For their sudden sympathies

Thank you God!

For the young, for their high hopes,

Dreams of a better world, and their solemn vows.

Their restlessness with worn-out values,

Thank you God!

For family,

For living together and eating together.

For playing together and praying together,

Thank you God!

We thank you God for these your children,

Whom have been placed in our lives,

To raise and to teach, to love and to care for,

For this privilege, we give you praise and thanksgiving. Amen

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.**

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE

*HYMN NO. 136

"Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

GO TELL IT

***Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us the salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

* Please rise in body or spirit

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram
Valerie Shondel, Director of Music
Sarah Solie, Director of the Christmas Musical
Cast of THE CHRISTMAS MUSICAL
Taylor Goodson, Percussion
Ray Liptak, AV Engineer
Dennis Velez, Assistant AV Engineer
Matthew Califf & Michael Sperrazza, AV Team

✠ We are glad you have chosen to worship here today! Please come again!

✠ For more information about our church, please visit our website:

www.firstprescaldwell.org

Upcoming Events

12/22—Family Christmas Caroling at the Live Nativity—Children to Adult—All are Welcome!
5:30-7:00 Church Lawn. Contact Valerie to sign up at Valerie@firstprescaldwell.org
12/22—Contemporary Christmas Service in the chapel @ 7pm
12/24—Christmas Eve Services 10:00am—8:00pm—10:00pm all in the Sanctuary.
12/31—New Year's Eve Service 10:00am in the Sanctuary



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