Gilead Presbyterian Church December 13, 2020; 3rd Sunday of Advent, Year B

Convinced of God's Grace, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the body of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, ability, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic standing; and we encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

WE GATHER AROUND THE WORD

WELCOME

OPENING MUSIC "The Joys of Mary" Old English Carol Piano, Penny Cameron/Organ, Mary Temple

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Isaiah 35:1-2

Leader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

People: We are preparing ourselves for the days when the wilderness and the dry land shall be glad.

Leader: The desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom

abundantly.

People: The land will rejoice with joy and singing.

ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

BLUE HYMNAL #11

"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?"

- O Lord, how shall I meet You, How welcome You aright?
 Your people long to greet You, My hope, my heart's delight!
 O kindle, Lord most holy, A lamp within my breast,
 To do in spirit lowly All that may please You best.
- Love caused Your incarnation, Love brought You down to me; Your thirst for my salvation Procured my liberty.
 O love beyond all telling, That led You to embrace In love all loves excelling Our lost and fallen race.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we come to worship with deep need, and a joy so deep it is sometimes hard to feel. Sing to us a song of redemption, a song of hope and renewal. We pray for joy in our hearts, hope in our God, love to forgive, and peace upon the earth. We ask for your light of salvation for all our family members and friends, and we pray your blessings on all people. May there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children,

and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of our sins and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. (adapted from Rev. Lia Icaza Willetts)
SILENT PRAYER
ASSURANCE OF PARDON

† THE OFFERING

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 126

- ¹When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those in a dream.
 ² Then our mouths were filled with laughter, and our tongues with shouts of joy; then it
- was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." ³ The LORD has indeed done great things for us, and we rejoiced.
 - ⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the desert of Negeb.
- ⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. ⁶ Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:6-8, 19-23

- ⁶ There was one sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light....
- ¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Temple sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord," as the prophet Isaiah said.

SERMON "Bring on the Pink One!" Rev. Martin McGeachy

WE SEAL THE WORD

MEDITATION MUSIC "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" Traditional Folk Song

WE BEAR THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

BLUE HYMNAL #28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

- Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
- 2. Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

BENEDICTION and PASSING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE "The First Nowell" Traditional Carol

The flowers this week are given by Katherine Foote, to the glory of God and in memory of her father, Emerson Foote, on his birthday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ▶ If you would like to purchase a Christmas poinsettia to decorate the chancel in honor of a loved one, Please contact Pastor Martin or Margery Amato to sign up. The cost is \$12.
- ▶ If you would like a hymnal to use at home for our streaming worship, please contact Pastor Martin.
- ► If you would like to purchase gifts for a needy family this Christmas, there is a link in the weekly email for an Amazon wish list, and instructions how to order.
- ► Look for email links to our Zoom Gilead Christmas Party, "Share the Light," and Facebook Live on Christmas Eve at 7:30. Have your candles ready!

[†] We accept offerings through the "Online Giving" link on our website, www.gileadchurch.org, or mail checks made out to Gilead Presbyterian Church, 9 Church Street, Carmel, NY 10512. Or give elsewhere if you see a need. In doing so, we brighten the world, and brighten our hearts.

GILEAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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