

**Gilead Presbyterian Church**  
**December 13, 2020; 3<sup>rd</sup> 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?"**

**1. 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.**

**2. 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

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those in a dream.

<sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> The LORD has indeed done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

<sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the desert of Negeb.

<sup>5</sup> May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. <sup>6</sup> 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

<sup>6</sup> There was one sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light....

<sup>19</sup> This is the testimony given by John when the Temple sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" <sup>20</sup> He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." <sup>21</sup> And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." <sup>22</sup> Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" <sup>23</sup> 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

