

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – December 13, 2020**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Opening Music**                      “Creator of the Stars of Night”    Glory to God #84, v.1,3,4

**Greeting**

**Hymn**                                      “While We Are Waiting, Come”              Glory to God, #92

**Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candle** [*responsive*]

Glory in the wilderness;

Glory in the wastelands.

**Let’s God’s people shout and sing for joy.**

Strength for the weary;

Courage for the fearful.

**Let’s God’s people shout and sing for joy.**

Shelter for the traveler;

Justice for the hungry.

**Let’s God’s people shout and sing for joy.**

We light this candle as a sign of God’s coming gift of joy.

As the Psalmist says:

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.

**Let all creation sing for joy at the coming of the Lord.** (Psalm 80)

Let us prepare for the coming of the Light of the world.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

**righteousness and peace will kiss each other.** (Psalm 85)

When the Lord restores our lives, we will be like those who dream;

**those who sow in tears will reap with shouts of joy.** (Psalm 126)

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

**We have locked ourselves out, O God.**

**Each of us, in our own way,**

has locked ourselves out of relationships,  
locked ourselves out of opportunities,  
locked ourselves out of our true home,  
because we are too arrogant,  
too stubborn, or simply too human.  
We have filled our lives and our world with shadows and death.  
We put our own judgment and desires over yours.  
We are lost, in need of light and hope and joy.

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

God comes to be our salvation.

Open yourselves to the joy to be found in our forgiveness.

**This is the Good News of the Gospel: we are forgiven and made new.**

Thanks be to God for this gift of joy.

**Music for Reflection**

“Away in a Manger”

Glory to God, #115

**We Listen to God’s Word**

**Children’s Message**

Carolyn Hayes

**Scripture**

Isaiah 43:1–4, 10–11

<sup>1</sup>But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,

he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;

and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,

and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God,

the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,

Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

<sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight,

and honored, and I love you,

I give people in return for you,  
nations in exchange for your life.

<sup>10</sup> You are my witnesses, says the Lord,  
and my servant whom I have chosen,  
so that you may know and believe me  
and understand that I am he.

Before me no god was formed,  
nor shall there be any after me.

<sup>11</sup> I, I am the Lord,  
and besides me there is no savior.

### **Luke 2:1–14**

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

Leader: This is the Witness to God’s Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Practicing Joy**

Rev. Mary Austin

## We Respond to God's Grace

### Hymn

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
Wade Meyers, voice

Glory to God #88, v.4, 5

### Invitation to Generosity

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer *[together]*

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.

## We Depart for Service

### Moment for Mission

Cathy Lyon

### Announcements

### Passing the Peace

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

### Closing Blessing

### Closing Music

"Wait for the Lord"  
The Canterbury Ringers with Laura Baxter, Donna Dannels,  
Ted Farrand, Mike Pratt, and Claudio Ferreira.

Glory to God, #90

**Participating in the service:**

Ms. AJ Gordon, Worship Leader

Mrs. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence

Rev. Mary Austin

The Call to Worship begins with a call from the Iona Community.