

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.

December 12, 2021

Silent prayer for use in preparation for worship:

Lord, we beseech Thee, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Thy gracious visitation; Who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, world without end, Amen.

*Collect for the Third Sunday in Advent
 Service Book and Hymnal of the Lutheran Churches, c. 1958*

PRELUDE *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel arr. M. MacDonald*
Alexandra Nichols, Violin
(Lyrics may be found on page 194 of the Trinity Hymnal)
Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659 J.S. Bach
("Savior of the Nations, Come", second hymn in the bulletin insert)
John Black, Organ

SCRIPTURE READING *Zephaniah 3:14-17*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *(from Psalm 34:1-3)*

*I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.
 My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the afflicted hear and be glad.*

O MAGNIFY THE LORD WITH ME, AND LET US EXALT HIS NAME TOGETHER!

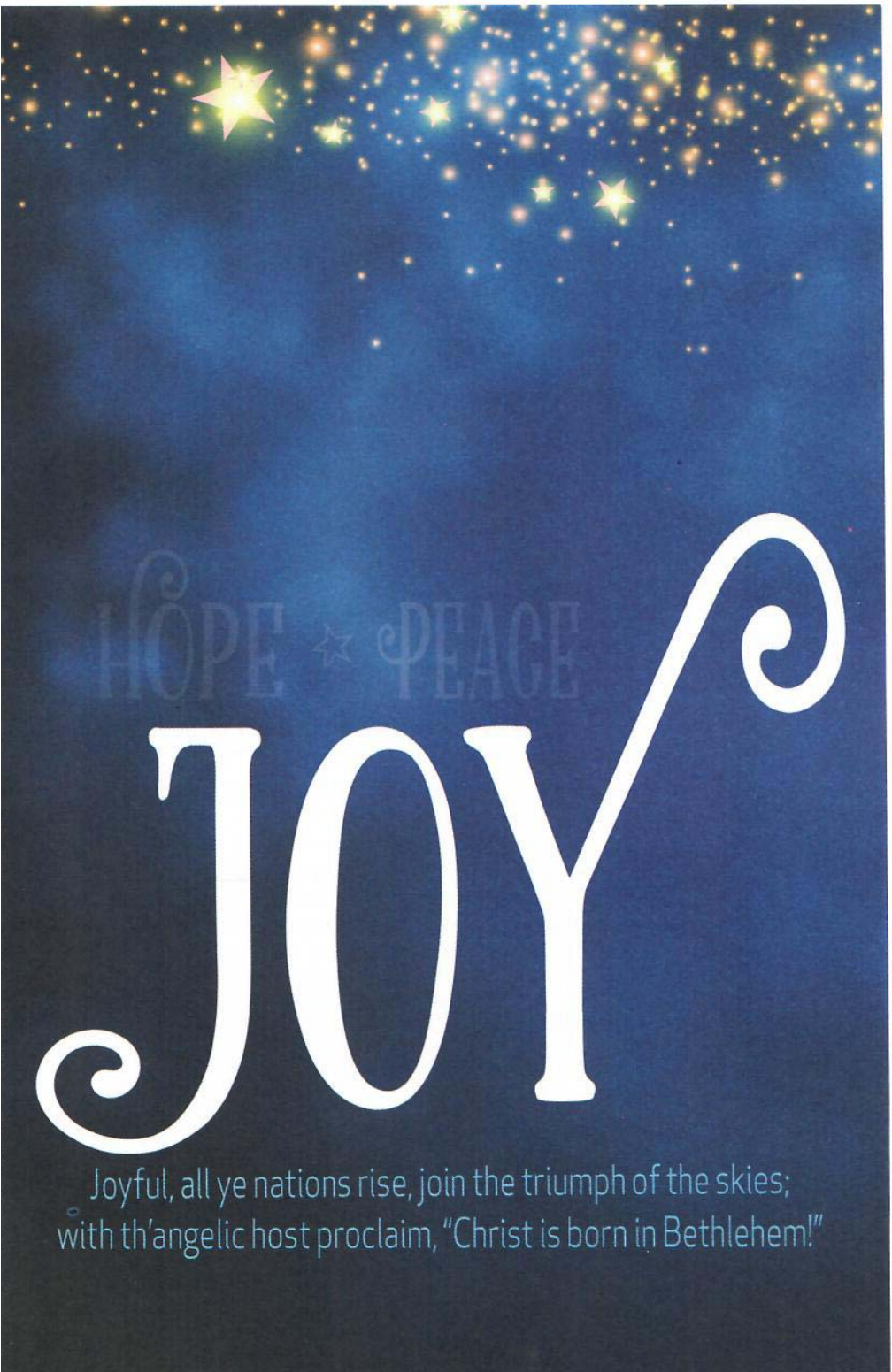
***PRAYER OF ADORATION** *(in unison)*

GOD OF OUR SALVATION, OUR HEARTS YEARN FOR THE WARMTH OF YOUR LOVE, AND OUR MINDS SEARCH FOR THE LIGHT OF YOUR WORD. INCREASE OUR LONGING FOR CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, AND STRENGTHEN US TO GROW IN LOVE, THAT AT THE DAWN OF HIS COMING WE MAY REJOICE IN HIS PRESENCE, WELCOME THE LIGHT OF HIS TRUTH, AND RECEIVE THE GIFT OF HIS GRACE. THIS WE ASK IN THE NAME OF JESUS, WHO LIVES AND REIGNS WITH YOU AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, ONE GOD, NOW AND FOREVER, AMEN.

***HYMN** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(first silently, then in unison):*

PURIFY OUR HEARTS, O LORD, AND FIT US FOR THY DWELLING PLACE. AS WE PREPARE FOR THY COMING, FORGIVE US OUR SINS, AND LET US NEVER FAIL TO FIND ROOM FOR THEE. THY SON WAS BORN INTO THIS WORLD FOR OUR SALVATION, AND NOW LIVES AND REIGNS KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. COME AND ABIDE WITH US, THAT THROUGH HIM WE ALSO MAY ABIDE WITH THEE. AMEN. (A prayer of William Temple, 1881-1944)



ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(responsively, from Jeremiah 31)*

“The time is coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”

“THIS IS THE COVENANT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THAT TIME,” DECLARES THE LORD. “I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE.”

“For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more.”

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN. AMEN.

***GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen, amen.*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ANTHEM *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Christian Black

Text by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); tune by Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

SCRIPTURE READINGS *Luke 1:26-56*
(Verses 46-56 to be read responsively)

Philippians 4:4-7

***HYMN** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

SERMON LET GOD FINISH!

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles Creed

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND IN JESUS CHRIST HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD; WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED. HE ASCENDED INTO HELL. THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, AND SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST; THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH; THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS; THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS; THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY; AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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 TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS 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.

OFFERING

**Doxology*

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!*

**Prayer of Dedication*

***HYMN** *O Come, Divine Messiah*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Rigaudon* *André Campra*

**(the people standing, as able)*

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-17

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; He has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. The Lord your God is in your midst, He is mighty to save; He will rejoice over you with gladness; He will quiet you by His love; He will exult over you with loud singing."

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates!

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in. Ps. 24:7

1. Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates! Be - hold, the
 2. A help - er just he comes to thee, his char - iot
 3. O blest the land, the cit - y blest, where Christ the
 4. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a

King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 is hu - mil - i - ty, his king - ly crown is
 Rul - er is con - fessed! O hap - py hearts and
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, his scep - ter, pi - ty in dis - tress.
 hap - py homes to whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.

Based on Psalm 24
Georg Weissel, 1642
Tr. by Catherine Winkworth, 1855; alt.

LUKE 1:26-45

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

At that time Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

LUKE 1:46-55 (Responsively)

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,

AND MY SPIRIT REJOICES IN GOD MY SAVIOR,

For He has been mindful of the humble estate of His handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed;

FOR HE WHO IS MIGHTY HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR ME, AND HOLY IS HIS NAME.

And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.

HE HAS SHOWN STRENGTH WITH HIS ARM, HE HAS SCATTERED THE PROUD IN THE IMAGINATION OF THEIR HEARTS,

He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree;

HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; THE RICH HE HAS SENT EMPTY AWAY.

He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy,

AS HE SPOKE TO OUR FATHERS, TO ABRAHAM AND TO HIS POSTERITY FOREVER.

And Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

ADVENT

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER EIDEN HEILAND

1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come, vir - gin's Son, make here Thy home!
 2. Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the Spir - it of our God,
 3. Wondrous birth! O won - drous Child of the vir - gin un - de - filed!
 4. From the Fa - ther forth He came and re - turn - eth to the same,

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 was the Word of God made flesh— wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 Though by all the world dis - owned, still to be in heav'n en - throned.
 cap - tive lead - ing death and hell— high the song of tri - umph swell!

5. Praise to God the Father sing,
 praise to God the Son, our King,
 praise to God the Spirit be
 ever and eternally.

WORDS: Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th cent.; German version, Martin Luther, 1523;
 tr. William M. Reynolds, 1880, alt.

MUSIC: *Enchiridia*, Erfurt, 1524; harm. Seth Calvisius, 1594

7.7.7.7

O Come, Divine Messiah

1. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The
 2. O come De - sired of na - tions, Whom
 3. O come in peace and meek - ness, For

world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
 priest and proph - et long fore - told, Will break the cap - tive
 low - ly will your cra - dle be: Though clothed in hu - man

tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.
 fet - ters, Re - deem the long - lost fold.
 weak - ness We shall your God - head see.

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the
 night and show your face, And bid us hail the dawn of
 grace. O come, Di - vine Mes - si - ah, The

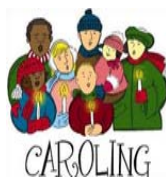
world in si - lence waits the day When hope shall sing its
 tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877
 Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 7 8 7 6 with refrain; French Noël, 16th C.; harm. by Healey Willan, 1880-1968, © 1958, The Basilian Fathers,
 assigned to Ralph Jusko Publications, Inc.

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
Warwick, Rhode Island
DECEMBER 12, 2021



Flowers Today are given to the glory of God by Janet Swanson in loving memory of her dear uncle, Allen T. Granquist, and by Karen, Christopher and Stephanie Allen in loving memory of Nancy Allen,



CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Please join us **TODAY** after worship for our annual Christmas Caroling trip to visit housebound members of the congregation. Following Sunday School we'll meet in the back lot to caravan around the Warwick area in our own vehicles (carpooling available if needed). Sheet music will be provided. Lend your voice to spread Christmas cheer to our homebound community!

THE MISSION COMMITTEE wishes to thank everyone who partnered with the Eleanor Slater Hospital to provide Christmas gifts to their long-term adult psychiatric patients. Please return the gifts **TODAY** unwrapped in a bag with the coded ornament. This act of kindness will not only be giving a tangible gift to someone, but the gift of being remembered and dignified as a person.



THE 39ERS' FELLOWSHIP will meet **12 noon** at **Chelo's Restaurant, 222 Post Road, Wednesday, December 15**. If you would like more information and/or are in need of a ride, please contact Joan Eichenfeldt at 737-0128 (cell phone 787-2574). Join us back at Fellowship Hall for our annual Yankee Swap. Please bring a \$10.00 wrapped gift if you wish to join in the fun. John Black will lead us in singing Christmas carols.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MITTEN TREE: It's time to help decorate our annual Mitten Tree on the stage in Fellowship Hall! Donations of mittens, hats gloves and scarves for the needy are appreciated.



This Week In Our Church

Monday	7 – 8 p.m.	BSF – Ladies
Tuesday	7 – 8 p.m.	BSF – Men
Wednesday	12:00 noon	39ers Chelo's Post Road Yankee Swap / Caroling
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.	Wed. Fellowship Dinner
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Meeting of the Session



We invite you to remember a loved one during the Christmas season with a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary. **TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY TO ORDER RED POINSETTIAS**



We invite you to remember and/or celebrate a loved one during the Christmas season with a poinsettia to help beautify our sanctuary. We will be taking orders for plants as well as accepting plants hand delivered by **DECEMBER 18**. Plants will arrive in 6 1/2 inch pots in two different colors: **red and white** and need to be picked up after Service of Worship **DECEMBER 26. LAST DAY FOR ORDERING WHITE WILL BE DECEMBER 5 AND LAST DAY FOR ORDERING RED WILL BE DECEMBER 12. THANK YOU.**

Please fill out the attached form and return it to the church office or place in the offering plate with your payment as soon as possible to reserve your plant.

_____ I WILL BRING A PLANT TO CHURCH BY **11:00 AM ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18**

_____ I WILL ORDER A PLANT:

_____ RED PLANTS) @ \$12.00 = _____ AND HAVE ENCLOSED PAYMENT.

_____ WHITE PLANTS) @ \$12.00 = _____ AND HAVE ENCLOSED PAYMENT.

In Memory / Celebration of _____

Given by _____ Telephone _____