

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – GAUDETE
Northside Presbyterian Church – December 12, 2021

(Please pick up a hymnal if you prefer to use one when singing)

GATHERING MUSIC – “On a Cold Winter’s Day” – Simple Gifts

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT – “Gaudete” - Ensemble

CALL TO WORSHIP*

*Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I say, rejoice!
Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people.*

The Lord is near. We will give thanks and bring our prayers to God. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep our hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

HYMN* - “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” (93, v. 1-3)

**1 Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.**

**2 Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven’s employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.**

**3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.**

THE CANDLELIGHTING – Pat and Dwayne Kittle

The Advent of our Lord is near, as we make God’s love known in our world. Surely we say this day: We give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations. We shout aloud and sing for joy.

*The first candle reminds us of God’s promise of a Savior.
The second candle reminds us that we must prepare our hearts and minds.
As we light the third candle, we are encouraged to proclaim the good news of God’s gift of salvation.*

God’s proclamation of joy is for all people; together we anticipate the day of his coming.

Let us pray. Holy One, you are the only true source of our strength and salvation. As we proclaim the good news of the coming birth of Christ, may we dare to worship you with joy—and may we invite others to experience the joy of your salvation. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING CAROL

(Handchimes Choir rings 1 verse, then congregation sings)

**Candles glowing, promise showing joy that fills our very soul.
Grace abounding, hymns resounding, Christ restores and makes us whole.
Mercies gleaming, wonders beaming, justice streaming, Christ redeeming—
Christ restores and makes us whole! Christ restores and makes us whole!**

CONFESSION

In your presence, Holy God, we confess that we need repentance. We have broken your commands against idolatry. We do not live in peace with your creation or your people. We have not trusted your word, and we are afraid. Forgive us, restore us, and turn our shame into praise, for the sake of the One who proclaims the good news and for the sake of all the world. Amen.

GOSPEL – Luke 3:7-18 – Dwayne Kittle

OFFERING OF MUSIC – *“Jesu Bambino”* - Simple Gifts

OLD TESTAMENT – Zephaniah 3:14-20

SERMON – *“The Joy of Home”*

HYMN**“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”* (129, v. 1, 2)

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG (110, v. 1)

**Love has come; a light in the darkness!
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it; hear how their song of joy arises!
Love! Love! Born unto you a Savior. Love! Love! Glory to God on high!**

Please be in prayer for:

Revathi Balakrishnan	Drew Taylor & family	Lindsay Salany
Edd Stoops	Susan Dickerson	Andy & Jean Robeson
Ron Pearson	Pat Robinson	Susan Miller
Wanda Price	Frances Hutcheson/Dowdy	Dennis Sweeney
Jeff Kallas (Bronwyn Robinson's husband)		Jerry Robinson
Tammy McClintock	Larry Loughborough	Gavin Adams
Louise Bloss	David Meincke	Betty Simpkins
Harvey Sowers	Philip Tompkins	Randall Wentworth

All those suffering with Covid or grieving the loss of a loved one

Musicians: Marya Katz, Charles Bostian, Ann Marie Conner, Jack Webster, Pat Fullen (varies)
Video Technicians – Marshall Chaney, Bruce Harper, Alex Chaney