

# THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

55 Smith Street

East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18301

570-421-5821

## December 19, 2021 Service for the Lord's Day Fourth Sunday in Advent

**Bolded words** indicate where you may join in speaking.

\*Those who are able are asked to stand.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE GREETERS.

PRELUDE

“Bring A Torch, Jeannette, Isabella”

ARR. MARY MCDONALD

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### GATHERING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

**P: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.**

L: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

**P: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.**

L: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

**P: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God!**

\*HYMN NO. 85

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

The Vogel Family

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope, peace and love and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**It is getting more and more difficult, Lord, for us to keep our attention on the holy things. Our lives are caught up in the planning, parties, gifts and other such things. We get side-tracked too easily, and exhausted, we fall into restless sleep. The cries of those in need abound and we are overwhelmed by the need. Too often we turn a deaf ear because we feel we just can't meet all the needs that are presented to us. Heal our hearts and spirits, Lord. Help us understand that you do not ask us to heal everything but rather to find a simple way in which we might lighten someone else's burden, as you have lightened our lives. You have brought hope and peace to us. Now, cause us to rejoice in the wondrous things that you have done. Teach us to use our gifts for the common good, and that, in helping, we find great and abundant joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.**

☞ Moment for Silent Reflection ☞

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

(Pg. 581 in red hymnal)

**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.**

THE PEACE

(please greet your neighbors, but remain in your pews)

L: The peace of Christ be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

HYMN NO. 96

“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of mercy, you promised never to break your covenant with us. Amid the multitude of words in our daily lives, speak your eternal Word to us, that we may respond to your gracious promises with faithfulness, service and love. Amen.

## THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

*Psalm 71:22-24 (Pg. 533)*

NEW TESTAMENT

*Luke 1:39-45(Pg. 57)*

EPISTLE

*Romans 15:7-13 (Pg.163)*

L: Word of God for the people of God  
**P: Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Finding Joy”

Nicole Vogel

HYMN NO. 105

“People, Look East”

## SENDING

PASTORAL PRAYER

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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

HYMN NO. 104

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”

POSTLUDE

“Glory in the Highest”

ARR. CAROL TORNQUIST

## THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

WE WELCOME all who worship with us today. Members, friends and visitors are all invited to share in the ministries and activities of our congregation.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please use the blue prayer request cards in the pews for your prayer requests. Place them in the offering plate so Pastor can include them in the Pastoral Prayer.

LAY READER for today is Linda Schaller.

GREETER for today is Carole Emery.

CELEBRATING BIRTHDAYS this week are Hollie Falzone, Bob Huffman and Ronald Bruce.

THE FLOWERS this week are sponsored by Ron and Connie Powell in memory of loved ones.

## Church Staff

Nicole Vogel  
Jen Carmella  
Linda Schaller  
Bob Lee  
Sami Carmella  
Keith Karkut

Pastor  
Secretary  
Music Director  
Sexton  
Nursery Attendant  
Technology

## THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today

~ Adult Education Class, 9:00 a.m.

~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.

~ Fellowship Hour in the lounge following worship

Friday

~ Christmas Eve Candlelight service, 7:30 p.m.

***In Honor of The Christmas Holiday, The Church Will Be Closed on Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup> for the New Years Holiday***

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