

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 Sharon Laverdure.

GREETER for today is Sharon Laverdure.

CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY this week is Kathy Mattem.

THE FLOWERS this week are given by David and Barbara Braithwaite in memory of Barbara's parents.

Church Elders

Sharon Laverdure Ellie Buff
Sandra Rydell Judy Schreck Jim Hall
Phil Lawrence Debbie Prince Lisa Swanson

Church Staff

Nicole Vogel Pastor
Jen Carmella Secretary
Linda Schaller Music Director
Sami Carmella Nursery Attendant
Keith Karkut Technology/Sexton

THIS WEEK AT E.S.P.C.

Today ~ Worship, 10:00 a.m.
~ Fellowship Hour in the lounge, following worship
Monday ~ Nexus deadline
Wednesday ~ Walk & Talk, 1:00 – ForEvergreen

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THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania

55 Smith Street East Stroudsburg, PA 18301 570-421-5821
(*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)

July 23, 2023
Service for the Lord's Day
All Services are Live-Streamed

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Let All Things Now Living" ARR. MICHAEL LARKIN

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sisters and brothers, let us rejoice in the vision of John: I saw a new heaven and a new earth! The old heaven and the old earth and the sea had disappeared.

P: Then I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, descending from God out of heaven, beautiful as a bride adorned for her husband.

L: A great voice thundered from heaven: "See, God is making God's home with mortals! God will live with them. They will be God's people."

ALL: God will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying, or pain. All of this – gone forever!"

*HYMN NO. 305

"Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Father – God of Joy and Hope; Wonderful Lord and Spirit of delight and wonder: You invite us to come to You with thanksgiving and joy, laughter and quiet awe. Your arms of welcome are out wide. So we come, not perfect and not even very spiritual – just as we are: Yours, spilling our hearts before You. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

We search for joy and meaning in our world. We look for it in our careers, our social circles, and along many of our paths in life. But these things are often fleeting, and our search is unsustainable. God forgive us for not seeking Your kingdom first. Remove those blinders that prevent us from seeing what You are doing in the world and in our lives. Help us to have our eyes focused only on You. May we seek the ultimate treasure which is Your salvation. Help us to trust that we are a forgiven people, who find joy in the assurance that we are Yours. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

Moment for Silent Reflection

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***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.**

(Pg. 581 in red hymnal)

***THE PEACE**

L: The peace of Christ be with you!
P: **And also with you!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

“There Is a Redeemer”

ARR. TOM FETKE

THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:6-9 (Pg. 685)

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 23:32-43 (Pg. 26)

EPISTLE

Revelation 21:1-4 (Pg. 259)

L: Word of God for the people of God

P: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

“Heavenly Joy”

Pastor Nicki

HYMN (on insert)

“He Has Made Me Glad”

SENDING

DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS

***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. AMEN.**

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.

HYMN NO. 192

“Lord, the Light of your Love is Shining”

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“All Hail, the Power of Jesus' Name”

ARR. JOHN RIPPON

(*Indicates to stand, in body or spirit)