



3rd Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2019 @ 10:00 am

Church of The Cross

475 West Higgins Road Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

(847) 885-1199

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE "Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming" By Lloyd Larson

WORDS OF WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT "The Lord Shall Come, Alleluia" Ludwig Van Beethoven

*CALL TO WORSHIP¹ Rev. Julie Peterson

Say to those of a fearful heart: Be strong, do not fear! Behold your God!

Behold! The glory of the Lord shines upon us!

Say to those with weak hands and feeble knees:

Be strong do not fear! Behold your God!

Behold! In splendor the Lord dwells among us!

The barren lands burst into bloom; the desert erupts with delight.

We join creation's song:

With joy in our hearts, let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN NO. 106 "Prepare the Way, O Zion"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Everlasting God – Isaiah 35:4

Melinda and Hansen Melvin

As we light the third candle, we rejoice with great joy as we remember all the times throughout our faith history God has revealed God's very self in a new way. How God delivered the people from slavery and from the wilderness. How God brought the exiles home. How God entered our world and our lives in a new way—as one of us.

All Sing: tune #41 "O Worship the King, All Glorious Above"

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,

For God is at work to do a new thing.

The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.

God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

All Pray: **O Everlasting Light, Everlasting God of steadfast love, reveal to us that you are at work in our lives and in our world in a new way. May we rejoice in the promise you have given us, hope for all eternity. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Cathy Walker

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

Advent God, You enter into our weary world to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry, to establish equity through the earth. Yet, like perplexed prophets and doubting disciples, we scarcely believe you can right the world. We see suffering and sorrow and sin and wonder if creation is beyond repair. Yet, you hold out healing, wholeness and hope. You promise to drive out despair and free us from debilitating fear.

Broaden our imaginations, so we might conceive of communities where all people thrive and embody your vision of *shalom*. Expand our hearts, so we might see the extraordinary in our midst and embrace the everlasting joy you bring. Make us prophets of the world you are beginning to birth, so we might prepare a way before you and welcome you with gladness!

OUR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Julie Peterson

*RESPONSE OF JOY, NO. 107, v4

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night.

**Though dark the winter and cheerless,
the rising sun shall crown you with light;
be strong and loving and fearless.**

**Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.**

*PASSING THE PEACE ~ *Greet one another with the peace of Christ.*

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

*HYMN No. 188, vs1 "Jesus Loves Me" *Children are invited to come forward*

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

*HYMN No. 188, vs2 "Jesus Loves Me" *Children return to their seat*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Cathy Walker

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 35:1-10

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-11

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Are you for real, Jesus?”

Rev. Julie Peterson

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

HYMN NO. 100

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.8

God expressed love for all humankind through Israel, whom God chose to be a covenant people to serve him in love and faithfulness. When Israel was unfaithful, God disciplined the nation with judgment and maintained the covenant through prophets, priests, teachers, and true believers.

These witnesses called all Israelites to a destiny in which they would serve God faithfully and become a light to the nations. The same witnesses proclaimed the coming of a new age, and a true servant of God in whom God’s purpose would be realized.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

CHORAL OFFERTORY "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Arr. Hall Wright

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Cathy Walker

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 80 "You shall Go Out with Joy" (*sing 2x*)

*CHORAL BENEDICTION "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Arr. Hall Wright

*POSTLUDE

"Wexford Carol"

By Lloyd Larson

¹Call to Worship 53.1, © 2019 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), pg18.

Welcome All
Share God's Love
Offer Hope
... all in Jesus' name



Hearing Assistance Devices, large print copies of the bulletin and hymns are available from an usher.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR...

Linda A (sister of Judy M)
Mary Lou A (friend of Larry & Dawn A)
Connie & Ed (Friends of Karen)
Mildred B
Mary Ann B
Sushma & family
Mary Joe (Jim B's co-worker)
Virgil B (friend of Karen F)
Andree C
Patrick C (Stu & Marie's son-in-law)
Renee C (Laura D's sister-in-law)
Linda D (Jim & Sue's relative)
Betty F (Chris L's mother)
Shawn F (Karen F's son)
Jack and Donna F (uncle/aunt of Sue L)
Karen F
Adelaide G
Bruce & Linda G (friends of the Rutter's)
Nick G (Rutter's grandson)
Ricky G (Liautaud's nephew)
Rita H (Jim & Ann's relative)
Terry H
Jessica (Charlie / Nancy's niece)
Charlie K

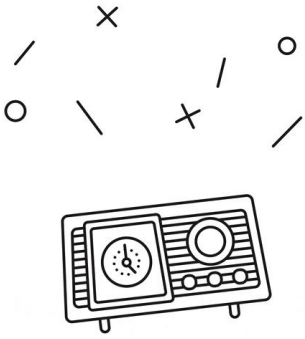
Bob L (Judie T's friend)
Jim L (Groenewold's son-in-law)
Linda L (Judie T's friend)
Mary Jo (Jim B's co-worker)
Glenna M
Judy M
Kofi M (Grant-Acquah family friend)
Lisa M (Karen's daughter)
Steve M
Noah (nephew of Adelaide's son-in-law)
Jerry N (friend of Judie T)
Jann & Mickey P (Jeff P's parents)
Barbara O (friend of Glenna M)
Susan Q (Ann S's boss)
George R
Ann S
Larry V (Jim V's father)
April V (Chris V's cousin)
Caregivers
Communities impacted by natural disasters
Those devastated by terrorism
Families of suicide loss
Those who grieve

- **Joan R**
- **Jeff H** (former member)

ARE YOU A VISITOR OR DO YOU HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you are a visitor today, please fill out one of our visitor cards.
If you have a prayer request, please fill out the prayer request card.
Please drop your card in the offering plate.

COTC Radio Play on January 5th



An original, short radio play, *What the Wise Men Know*, will be performed in front of the congregation during the worship service on Sunday, Jan. 5. If you are interested in being an actor or narrator, please see Stu Truelsen for details. No memorization. Rehearsal with script Dec. 29, after worship service and Jan. 5, before worship.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Please sign up...

1. for the **Advent candle lighting** on 24 December
2. to be readers for the **Lessons and Carol Service** on 29 December

The sign-up form is available on the Resource Schedule on our website or use the form in the lounge.



JOIN US THIS ADVENT



Everlasting God

Third Week of Advent

Sunday, December 15th - Worship @ 10 am

Fourth Week of Advent

Sunday, December 22nd

Cantata Worship @ 10 am & Christmas party @ 11 am

Laying on of Hands

Tuesday, December 24th

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7 pm



Prince of Peace



Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 30th @ 10 am

CALENDAR

For the week of December 15th

Sunday, December 15

9:00 am Sunday School for All
10:00 am 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship
11:00 am Coffee/Fellowship

Wednesday, December 18

12 noon Lunch with Pastor
1:30 pm Friendship Devotions

Thursday, December 19

9-11:00 am Café Hours @ Tous Les Jours
20 E Golf Rd, Schaumburg
7:00 pm Choir practice

Sunday, December 22

9:00 am Sunday School for Adults only
10:00 am 4th Sunday of Advent Worship
Cantata & Laying on of Hands
11:00 am Christmas Party Fellowship

December

24 Tuesday	25 Wednesday	26 Thursday	27 Friday	28 Saturday	29 Sunday
7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Office Closed				9:00 am - Sunday School for Adults only 10:00 am - Lessons & Carols 11:00 am - Coffee Hour & Fellowship

WORSHIP RESOURCE SCHEDULE

Date	December 15	December 22	December 24	December 29
	Third Sunday of Advent	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Christmas Eve Service	Lessons & Carols
Worship Leader	Cathy Walker		P Groenewold	K Groenewold
Disciple on Duty	Jim V	C Keppel		Jim V
Usher/Greeter	S. Murray		B Groenewold	Buchholz
Counter	B Groenewold			B Groenewold
Communion Set Up				
Communion Servers				
Advent Candle Lighters	Melinda & Hansen	Murray's		
Coffee Hour	Judie T	Chris L		

Church of the Cross
475 West Higgins Road, Hoffman Estates, IL 60169

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Clerk of Session: Pat Groenewold
 Email: groenewp@aol.com

Choir Director: Marie Rutter

Keyboardist: Youjin Bang

Moderator of Deacons: Sue Letterer
 Email: sletterer@comcast.net

CCLI # 2992287 / SongSelect® #11328105

Session

Elders, Class of 2019

Adelaide Grant-Acquah
 Jane Lesch
 Fritz Michaelis

Elders, Class of 2020

Ken Groenewold
 Mike Lorentz
 Cathy Walker

Elders, Class of 2021

Sue Liautaud
 Stu Rutter
 Cheryl Wilkins

Deacons

Deacons, Class of 2019

Karen Franz
 Chris Lorentz
 Sue Letterer

Deacons, Class of 2020

Laura DeLaCruz
 Naana Grant-Acquah
 Bob Groenewold

Deacons, Class of 2021

Ann Moorman
 Judie Truelsen
 Ann Scheerer

Corporation Officers

Jim Letterer President
 Larry Amos Vice President
 Ken Groenewold Treasurer
 Pat Groenewold Secretary
 Nancy Keppel Member at large
 Sue Liautaud Member at large
 Terry Maulding Member at large