



Christ Memorial Presbyterian Church

December 15, 2024 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

**indicates to stand as you are able.

Prelude

Joy to the World

arr. B. K. Smith

Psalm 15: 13: *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found."

(words: I. Watts, 1719; music (*Antioch*): G.F. Handel, 1742; public domain)

(this piano solo: Lorenz Publishing Co., 2008)

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; **P: People**)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

****Lighting of the Advent Candles—Call to Worship**

The Schreiber Family

One: Rejoice! The Spirit of God fills us!

All: A new beginning is possible!

One: From the seed of good news,

All: God has grown a glorious harvest.

One: Even from ruins and rubble,

All: God raises up a glad people of praise.

(~candle may be lit~)

One: Look! The light shines.

All: We will trust the Holy One who inclines our spirits to joy.

****Response—89**

For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits

**Refrain: For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits
Truly my hope is in you.**

(v.2) O Spring of Joy, Rain down upon our spirits;
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your word;
Come make us whole, be comfort to our hearts

Refrain

Prayer of Shared Confession

(including a pause for silent reflection and confession)

God who sees the loveliness and shortcomings of all--

How are we supposed to engage the world with good news and hope and joy,
when we work so hard to surround and clothe ourselves with vain beauty,
and distance ourselves from ugliness or suffering, in others or ourselves? *(silence)*

Yet you give us a glimpse of what you see:

A people planted as a sign, springing up with righteousness and praise.

For the ways we fail to live up to your vision, God—**Forgive us.**

When we've allowed other things to grow—not your liberation, your comfort, your providing--- **Forgive us.**

When we rebuild the unjust ways and resist the new way of life you offer—**Forgive us.**

When we don't rejoice in reversals that release your children and creation from what shames us or holds us back--**Forgive us.**

Forgive us when we don't reflect your glory.

Remind us who you are, and who we are,

**that we might once again take up the robe of righteousness and the garland of gladness,
revealing your care and your joy to all the earth.**

We ask in the name of the coming Christ,

**whose Spirit fills us and sets us to work for the coming of your Kingdom,
on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

L: Friends, this is the Good News of the Gospel...

(Congregation pause to hear the Good News of the Gospel)

P: ...in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

****Response in song - 110, v3**

Love Has Come

Love has come, and never will leave us!

Love is life everlasting and free.

Love is Jesus within and among us; Love is the peace our hearts are seeking,

Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas,

Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

WORD

Moment with Children

Sarah Trodden

**Please note that any children who come forward for the moment with children will likely be seen on the worship livestream on Facebook*

Children ages preschool—third grade dismissed to Sunday Experience

Please see announcements for instructions.

Scriptures: Isaiah 61:1-4; 10-11

- 61** The LORD God's spirit is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me.
He has sent me
to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
3 to provide for Zion's mourners,
to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.
They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the LORD to glorify himself.
4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins;
they will restore formerly deserted places;
they will renew ruined cities,
places deserted in generations past.
10 I surely rejoice in the LORD;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.
11 As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the LORD God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Word in Music

Joy Has Dawned

arr. (with new music) by Joseph Martin

Psalm 98:4-6: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn; shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

(this cantata orchestrated by Ed Hogan; Hope Publishing Company, 2019)

THANKSGIVING/EUCHARIST

Thanksgiving Prayers of the People

Invitation to Offering

There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin. Thank you for your support!

Offertory

Still, Still, Still

arr. A.L. Christopherson

Mollie Thomas - flute solo

Luke 2:7: And she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

"Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The virgin's tender arms enfolding, warm and safe the child are holding. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep, while angel hosts from heaven come winging, sweetest songs of joy are singing. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slumber deep."

(this song is an Austrian carol/lullaby, translated by G.K. Evans in 1963)

(this sheet music solo purchased from sheetmusic.com., 2024)

**Doxology-113

(sung to tune of *Angels We Have Heard on High*)

God of great and God of small.
God of one and God of all
God of weak and God of strong,
God to whom all things belong,
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SENDING

**Benediction

Postlude

How Great Our Joy from Joy Has Dawned

by J. Martin

(words and music by K. Getty/S. Townend, 2005; ThankYou Music Integrity Music)

Thank you to Allen Exner and Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to John Kim for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Announcements and Upcoming Events

Stewardship Update

Thank you to those who have completed their 2025 pledges. With your help, we have reached 75% of our goal! Stewardship is rooted in faith – in Jesus and God’s mission. Jeremiah 29:11 says, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” If you have not completed your 2025 pledge, it’s not too late! This year, we are asking you to thoughtfully, prayerfully and hopefully consider rolling over and adding what you have graciously given in the prior capital campaign to your 2025 Annual Stewardship pledge. To make a pledge, (**no login required**), scan the code or fill out a paper pledge card and place it in the Offering plate.



Fourth Monday Meals

We are blessed with the opportunity to provide food for Grassroots Day Resource Center on the fourth Monday of each month. December 23rd is the fourth Monday in December. If you are available to provide food and/or serve, please sign up below.

Please note that all food except dessert should be placed in disposable 9x13 pans and must be delivered to the church parking lot at 3:30 pm.



Cold Weather Shelter

CMPC will be participating in the Cold Weather Shelter again this year. The dates are December 30th through January 5th. Grassroots is hosting the CWS at its recently renovated facility on Freetown Road. CMPC will be providing continental breakfasts and hot dinners for 70 guests.

For dinners, we are asking for 4-6 people to sign up for casseroles (or meat&side dish), and 2 to sign up for salads. Volunteers will need to coordinate, since Grassroots needs to provide the same dinner to all guests. A list of suggestions is available, but please feel free to fix a favorite dish. Please do NOT provide any pork products.

For breakfast, we are asking for 3 volunteers to provide breakfast for 24 people each. Each volunteer should provide fruit and either cereal/breakfast bars/muffins/doughnuts/bagels. Since they are fine with a variety, there is no need to coordinate with other volunteers.

Dinners should be delivered to CMPC hot and ready by 4:15. If you (or your group) prefer to take them directly to Grassroots, please have them at the shelter by 4:45. Breakfast should be delivered to CMPC by 4:15 the day before it is to be served.

We are also being invited to provide up to three volunteers (minimum age 15) to help serve the dinner. For planning purposes, Grassroots is asking volunteer servers to sign up via CMPC by December 16, so if you think you might like to help serve, please let us know by that date. Volunteers will need to sign a confidentiality form and bring it with them. You can sign up to provide food through December.

We will be available to answer questions after services every Sunday in December. You may sign up to participate here, or via the signup genius link provided in the bulletin. Or if you prefer, sign-up sheets will be available after services every Sunday in December. Thank you in advance for your support and participation!



Third Grade Bibles

We will recognize our third graders' transition into full worship at Christ Memorial by presenting them with their very own, brand new Bible during worship on Sunday January 5th. If you have a third grader, please notify the church office at office@cmpcusa.org.

Feed The Freezer For Fellowship

Tis the season for baking, so why not bake some extra cookies, quick breads, coffee cake, etc for the Fellowship committee to serve during Sunday Fellowship Hour! Please have your items "freezer ready," labeled with what you have baked, and the quantity. Over the next two Sundays (December 15th and 22nd) just place your baked item on the metal table in the kitchen. Someone from the Fellowship Committee will be there to happily accept your baking donation. So come on everybody...let's feed the freezer for Fellowship! Merry Christmas!

Longest Night Service

Saturday, December 21st at 4 p.m.

On the eve of the Winter solstice, as the shadows deepen into our longest night, you are invited to our recognition that even amid all the joy (see above) it is often hard to find God's hand in the dark. Come to pray and sing and wait together—because God is present even—sometimes especially— in the deepest darkness.



Christmas Eve Services—Tuesday, December 24 at 5 PM and 8 PM

5 PM --This service features a favorite tradition at CMPC, a participatory retelling of the Christmas Story, as well as carol, songs from the LOGOS Children's Chorus and scripture readings. This is a more casual service and all those who are young at heart are invited to attend!

8 PM—This traditional Christmas Eve service invites you to a Holy Night with carols, candles, choir songs, Bible texts and prayers. This is a service for peaceful, hope-filled reflection on a God who so loved the world that we were given his Son, laid in a manger. Come and rest your heart in our shared hope.

HOLY COW!

The stories you're hearing at Christmas right now are full of sheep, and a few donkeys. Get ready to add the CAT scan--the Congregational Assessment Tool from Holy Cow Consulting. A link for our data-gathering tool will be up in late December and stay up for just over three weeks. Respondents will be able to express their views about numerous subjects in an online form that typically takes around 45 minutes to fill out. All active members and givers are asked to participate: If you're nervous about the online thing, we can offer a limited number of paper copies. But we also plan to set up a group tech time where you can log on here at church and get ready assistance if needed.

This study will help us to create the church profile needed to begin our pastoral search: Everyone's input is important! Make your participation part of your Christmas-season giving to Christ Memorial.



Joy Has Dawned

A Christmas Musical

Composed & Arranged by

Lloyd Larson

HOPE Publishing Company
Carol Stream IL 60188
Since 1892
www.hopepublishing.com
800-323-1049

Joy Has Dawned

composed and arranged
by Lloyd Larson
(Hope Publishing Company, 2019)

From the Composer/Arranger, Lloyd Larson:

“The message of Christmas is truly a message of joy!
“Joy” themes permeate the lyrics in these Christmas carols, both old and new.
It is an eternal message for all. It is a message to be embraced in all our days.
Joy has dawned upon the world. And that is something to celebrate!”

How Great Our Joy

Joy in the Morning with ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee***

Mary Had a Baby

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven with ***Away in a Manger***

Brightest and Best of the Stars

Joy Has Dawned with ***Angels We Have Heard on High***

Jesus Christ Is Born!

Trinity Choir
Director of Music: Joy Exner

Narrators:

Josh Gliptis
Wes Millard

Instrumentalists:

Jeanette Donald, Flute
Nicole Nikolo, Flute
Cleveland Chandler, Violin
Radhi Santos, Violin
Jonathan Terry, Cello
Arielle Tobias, Percussion

Soloist for *Marv Had a Baby*

Pastor Janna Vanderwoude

Vocal Duet in *Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven*

Thomas Engle
Allen Exner

LOGOS vocalists for *Joy Has Dawned!*

Evie Bis
Zoey Carbonella
Molly Graybeal
Rosie Keen
Sam Thomas
Riley Trodden

How Great Our Joy!

Joy to the world! Joy to the world! Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright. How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high.

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today. How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! How great our joy!

The gift of God we'll cherish well, that ev'ry joy our hearts shall fill. How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing. How great our joy! Joy to the earth! The savior reigns; let all their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy! Joy to the world! The Lord has come!

Joy in the Morning with Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy in the morning. There'll be joy in the morning. There'll be joy on that day, with the light of dawn, the dark is gone, there'll be joy, joy, joy. And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine, will shine. And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine.

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. There'll be joy, there'll be joy, there'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy. There'll be joy in the morning, there'll be joy on that day, with the bright dawn, night gone, there'll be joy, joy, joy!

Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will shine, will shine. And the glory, glory, glory of the Lord will bring the truth divine. There'll be love and forgiveness ev'rywhere, and the way of the Lord will be restored. There'll be love and forgiveness, there'll be peace and contentment. There'll be joy, joy, joy, joy, joy!

Mary Had a Baby

Mary had a baby, my Lord.
What did she name him, my Lord?
She named Him King Jesus, My Lord.
Where was He born, my Lord?
Born in a manger, my Lord.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. My Lord,
Mary had a baby, my Lord. He is Christ the Lord.
Jesus Christ the Lord.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!

Joy has dawned! The angels are singing. Christ is born this holy night. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Welcome the Child, the King forever. Hope has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the newborn King!

Joy has dawned! The heavens are ringing, Christ is born in a humble stall, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Find the Child lying in a manger. Peace has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the newborn King!

Born to reign in us forever, born to set his people free; dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Joy has dawned! The shepherds are bringing gifts of love, adoration and praise. Gloria in excelsis Deo! This is the Child that God had promised. Love has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the newborn King! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven with Away in a Manger

Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star. Like us, crying he takes his first breath, held by His mother, helpless, close to her beating heart. Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers, come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God. Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers; come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God.

O Jesus, King of the highest heaven, learning to take His first steps that He might bring us life. Like us, knowing our smiles and sorrows, he showed the way to follow a way that is true and right. Jesus, take away ev'ry darkness, steady my simple footsteps that I might, in your goodness, live as a child of God.

(over)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay. Jesus, joy of the highest heaven, born as a little baby under a wondrous star.

Brightest and Best of the Stars

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, dawn on our darkness and come to our aid; star of the east, the horizon adorning, guide where our infant Redeemer is laid. What shall we give him, in costly devotion? Shall we bring incense and off'rings divine, gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean, myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping, whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him. Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby. Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary. Brightest and best of the stars of the morning, guide where our Redeemer is laid.

Joy Has Dawned with Angels We Have Heard On High!

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Joy has dawned upon the world, promised from creation; God's salvation now unfurled, hope for every nation. Not with fanfares from above, not with scenes of glory, but a humble gift of love: Jesus born of Mary.

Sounds of wonder fill the sky with the songs of angels as the mighty Prince of Life shelters in a stable. Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in darkness, cling now to a mother's breast vulnerable and helpless.

Come to Bethlehem, and see Him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds bow before the Lamb, gazing at the glory; gifts of men from distant lands prophesy the story. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus Christ Is Born!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this; He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this!

Joy has dawned! The angels are singing. Christ is born this holy night. Gloria in excelsis Deo! Welcome the Child, the King forever. Hope has come tonight in Bethlehem. Go, worship the newborn King! Born to reign in us forever, born to set His people free; dear Desire of ev'ry nation, Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere; go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born. Joy has dawned hear the angels' song, that Jesus Christ is born!