



Let us know that you are here

## Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Sunday, December 11, 2022

3rd Sunday of Advent

### Gathering

**Welcome and Ministry Announcements**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**\*Opening Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

**\*Call to Worship**

Worship Leader

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Tell of the greatness of the Lord.

**People: We will rejoice in God our Savior.**

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

“Joy”

Grant Family

Watch and wait for Christ’s coming! Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope. [*Light the first candle.*]

We light this candle for peace. [*Light the second candle.*]

We light this candle in joy! [*Light the third (pink) candle.*]

To those who live as exiles from home in a dark time, to those enslaved as exiles due to others’ oppression, to those who are sin’s exiles from their best God-promised selves, the Lord speaks the joy of good news.

A reading from Zephaniah 3:14-20.

*Reader 1:* Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival.

\*please stand

*Reader 2:* “I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

Let us pray: Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice! Sing praises to the Lord. Amen.

**Gathering Prayer**

Grant Family

**Call to Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**Prayer of Confession**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**People: Holy God, in Jesus Christ you have experienced our humanity. We admit that we are not yet holy in spirit, soul, and body. Our worship is not always wholehearted. Our hearts and minds can be arrogant and unchangeable. Our bad habits jeopardize our health. Forgive our faults and fulfill your promise through the communion of the Holy Spirit that we may be faultless when our Lord Jesus comes.**

Leader: Please continue in silent confession....Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

Leader: Friends, hear the good news! God’s mercy is sure from generation to generation.

**People: God will not forget to show mercy to their children’s children.**

Leader: Friends, believe the good news!

**People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Word**

**A Time for Children**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

(Children will go to Sunday School)

**Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Grant Family

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the

feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God’s people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading**

Matthew 11:2-11

Dr. Yvan Kelly

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

“Can You See It from Here?”

Dr. Yvan Kelly

**\*Middle Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #115

“Away in a Manger”

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

**I BELIEVE  
in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth;  
and in Jesus Christ,  
his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by  
the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell;  
the third day he rose again**

**from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God  
the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge  
the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic Church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Prayers and Offering**

**Prayers of the People/The 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.**

**Giving Thanks to God with Our Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory Song**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**People: God who promised to come, has come, and has promised to come again. We are preparing ourselves for your return and offer our gifts and ourselves to make the way straight for Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Sending**

**\*Closing Hymn**

Glory to God Hymnal #147 v. 1-4

“The First Nowell”

**Charge and Blessing**

Dr. Yvan Kelly

## Announcements

**Congregational Meeting December 11** - There will be a brief congregational meeting following worship today. The purpose of this meeting is to elect Session members and next year's Nominating Committee.

**Presbyterian Women Cookie Exchange and Bake Sale December 18** - The Presbyterian Women are hosting a Cookie Exchange and Bake Sale after church on December 18. To participate in the Cookie Exchange, please provide 2 dozen cookies that you will "exchange" for 2 dozen cookies from among what the others have brought! We will be selling boxes of the cookie of your choice for \$5...so everybody gets cookies!

We are compiling a Cookie Recipe Book. As you are considering what cookies to bake, please provide the recipes to Lois Morse at [ldmorse89@gmail.com](mailto:ldmorse89@gmail.com) so she can put them together in a fun book.

**Christmas Joy Offering December 18** - By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please use the special envelopes in the friendship pads to give to this offering.

**Christmas Eve Service** - Our Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 24.

**Financial Giving** - You may place your offering in the offering plate, drop off a check at the office, put it in the mail, or use our online giving portal that can be accessed [here](#).

Song credits: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"; "Away in a Manger"; "The First Nowell". All hymns are Public Domain.



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