

John Knox Presbyterian Church
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent -- JOY



*Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts
and minds for worship.*

GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

"O How Joyfully"

arr. Cindy Berry

Words of Welcome

The Peace of Christ be with you ... and also with you.

Lighting the Advent Candles[#]

*In Isaiah ... We light this candle as a sign of our hope
that God's love in Christ brings healing to us, and to the whole world.
As we witness to the power of healing love, in ourselves and in others—*

**Risen Christ, Light of the world,
shine in our lives
and shine among us now.**

Advent Song[#]

"Someone Comes!" v. 3

see projection or music handout

*** Call to Worship[#]**

*Come together, people of God.
Pray, praise, and listen
to familiar words of revolutionary change.*

Revolutionary? I'm not sure I want to hear this.

*"The Living God does great things for us,
and Holy is her Name.*

Amen! So far, so good!

*She tumbles the mighty,
raises the humble,
scatters the schemers,
feeds the hungry
and dismisses the overfed."*

Wait a moment. Is this in the Bible?

It is? Are you serious, God?

Come together, people of God.

Pray, praise, and listen

to familiar words of revolutionary change.

So who's going to do all this? A baby? Jesus Christ!!

"My soul glorifies the living God,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

That's what Mary said—A baby, Jesus Christ.

Come together, people of God

in hope of revolutionary change

for us and the world around us.

OK. Here I am. Change me! Amen.

*** Hymn**

"Joy to the World"

#134

*** Invitation to Confession**

*** Unison Prayer of Confession**

Thom Shuman

We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, Advent God. The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule. The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we risk being sent away empty. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look with grace upon us. We would live secure in your love; we would be the ones of peace for our world, we would seek to do your will, as did Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whose name we pray.

*** Words of Forgiveness**

*** Sung Response**

"Rejoice in the Lord Always"

See projection

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination[#]

First Reading

Psalms 30: 1-5

NRSVUE

*I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up
and did not let my foes rejoice over me.*

*O LORD my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.*

*O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol,
restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.*

*Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones,
and give thanks to his holy name.*

*For his anger is but for a moment;
his favor is for a lifetime.*

*Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.*

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Time with Our Young and Growing

Second Reading

Luke 1: 47-55

NRSV

“My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Rev. Maggie Lewis

*** Statement of Faith**

Ann Siddall

**Our souls magnify the Lord,
and our spirits rejoice in God our Savior,
for he looks with favor upon us
and sees our unrealized potential.**

**In the tradition of Mary,
and all who have said “yes” to God,
we stand here today,
to add our assent to theirs.**

**Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;
we wonder if we are worthy,
or capable, of following the calling.**

**Like Mary, we have our questions
and we will not be afraid to ask them.
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder
the assurance that God will empower us.**

**Like Mary we will strive to say -
“Let it be with us according to your will.”**

**To whatever God is inviting of us
at this time in our lives,
and relying on God’s grace,
we say “yes.”**

*** Hymn “Canticle of the Turning”**

#100

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

Church and Community Life

Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts

Offertory "O'CAROLAN'S LAMENT and COVENTRY CAROL" arr. Thomas Keesecker

*** Sung Response** "Doxology for Humanity" tune #606 see projection
Praise eyes that see all human need.
Praise minds that cast out selfish greed.
Praise lips that challenge those in power.
Praise those who struggle every hour. Amen

This song of praise by Kurt Struckmeyer, sung to a traditional tune, offers praise to the Creator of all and at the same time, reminds us how our lives can praise God every day. There are four verses, and we will sing a new verse each week.

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD

*** Sending Song** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #88 verse 6

* Charge and Blessing

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude.

Postlude "STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN and COLUMCILLE" arr. Thomas Keesecker

Liturgist: Janet Anderson
Music Director: Anna Robinson

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis
Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Church and Community Life

This is the third Sunday of Advent, the JOY Sunday. Joy sings even in dry places. It can be a form of resistance, a "bursting" of the light that shines, not from afar, but rising among us. God breaks into human life not only at Bethlehem, but also here and now. Pastor Maggie will explore where and how we experience and receive that joyous in-breaking light.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS for 2026 will be accepted any time. Place them in the offering basket or give them to Bronwyn. As of December 2, we have received 12 pledges for a total of \$70,780. Considering other sources of income (unpledged and designated gifts and building use), our income is estimated to be \$91,180. Our draft operating budget/projected expenses for 2026 is almost \$111,000. Your financial support is very appreciated.

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK The most efficient way to help food banks at this time is to provide cash donations so they can make bulk food purchases of most-needed items. Designate "KCFB" or "Food Bank" and we will route the money to KCFB. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at keizercommunityfoodbank.org for more information, or contact Sheila or Teresa.

GIFT CARDS FOR YOUTH Last-minute donations toward the purchase of gift cards for youth in foster care can be made **today**. Indicate “ODHS Gift Cards” on your donation. The cards will be delivered this week. Providing these gift cards for youth in foster care is one way we can express our love and care for those in challenging situations. These gift cards allow them the freedom of choice to buy items they want and need for themselves or for their families. Your generous donations last year provided \$3,120 in gift cards for these youth.



Our delivery to Keizer Community Food Bank on Dec. 4

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING begins today and will be received through January 4. This PCUSA special offering serves the past, present, and future leaders of the church. See the information below for stories and more information.



Looking Ahead

TODAY	3:30	Salem Community Chorus Concert at Christ's Church United, Monmouth
Dec. 17	7:00	Session meeting via Zoom
Dec. 21	10:30	Worship – Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>Christ Jar Offering</i>
Dec. 24	7:00	Christmas Eve service Candlelight Communion Service
Dec. 28	10:30	Worship – 1 st Sunday of Christmas
Jan. 4	10:30	Worship with Holy Communion Rev. Andrew Wall, guest preacher Last day to receive Christmas Joy Offering

December Birthdays

10	Dixie S.	30	Micah R.
13	Tim B.	31	Marlene B.
29	Jim C.		
December Anniversaries			
23	Lee & Mary Jo E.	26	Doug & Janet A.

SALEM COMMUNITY CHORUS
WINTER CONCERTS

Director: Anna Robinson Accompanist: Adam Robinson

Winter Wind

Christ's Church United **Sunday, Dec 14** 3:30 pm
412 W Clay St, Monmouth

It's a short drive for a marvelous Christmas experience!



Our gifts prepare students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

High school senior Søren Briggs is the youngest ruling elder to be ordained at First Presbyterian Church in his hometown of Albuquerque, New Mexico. His love for both his home church and the Presbyterian-related Menaul School, supported by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering, fuels his passion. Building on the school's historic emphasis on ministry as a potential career path, a new class, titled "Called to Serve," will help students appreciate the Reformed understanding of "vocation" as they explore together how their faith can be lived out in everyday life. Søren sees the class as helping him continue to cultivate good values: how to live your life as a kind person and how to practice your faith.



Our gifts also help smooth the path for current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need.



Rev. Lynn Bledsoe's world was rocked when Hurricane Helene swept away not only her long-held sense of security, but the very ground beneath her North Carolina home, causing a 15-foot drop off outside her front door. The needed repairs weren't covered under insurance. Thankfully, Lynn received an unexpected lifeline — a grant to help with the repairs through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions — made possible by gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Rev. Bledsoe said, "Although I've given to the Christmas Joy Offering for years, I never thought I would be a recipient. It brings tears to my eyes every time I think about the generosity and immediate support of the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions."

John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)

PO Box 20968 (452 Cummings Lane N)

Keizer, OR 97307 (503) 393-0404

Office Hours: By appointment – call or email

Office email: office.johnknoxpreskeizer@gmail.com

Prayer chain: johnknoxpreskeizer@gmail.com

Web: johnknoxpreskeizer.org

Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pastor's email: pastormaggie18@gmail.com

Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836

This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.

We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks. Copyrighted music is projected and recorded under One License #A-735693, CCL#3162413, or by permission of the author or publisher.

*Liturgy marked # is from Brian Wren's book *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008) and are reproduced with permission. © 2007 by Brian Wren.*