

December 17, 2023; 9:00 am
Third Sunday of Advent - JOY

We Gather Together

Welcome to our Service of Worship. Whether you are with us in person, joining us live on ZOOM or watching several days from now, we are glad you are here. We extend a special welcome to our visitors. For those in person, please use the time before worship to fill in the Friendship Pad in your pew.

Gathering Music: *please join in singing the following Christmas Carols*

PH 48 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

PH 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

PH 23 Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1 & 2

Welcome & Announcements

Eddie H.

Ringing of the Bell and entrance of the Light of Christ

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Lorelei, Henry, Clarie, Oliver, Jaeda, Graham and Liam

We light this candle in Hope.
We light this candle for Peace.
We light this candle in Joy!

Rejoice! For our Lord is coming into the darkness of oppression's exile to lead us home, as we hear in Isaiah 35:1-10.

Reading from Isaiah

Let us pray:

O Lord, our redeemer,
you lead us from languishing in sorrow's shadows
into laughter's joy over your abundant restoration.
Thank you that you are coming for us
to lead us home along your Way, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***Sung Response: GTG 667 “When Morning Gilds the Skies”**

***Call to Confession**

Eli B.

With open hands, we proclaim:

**God promises to bring good news to the afflicted,
the disenfranchised, the oppressed, the tormented,
the grieving, and the imprisoned.**

With open spirits, we shout with joy.

God calls us to rejoice, pray, and give thanks constantly.

With open minds, we gather in God’s covenant.

**God sanctifies us so that we will be ready for
the coming of the Lord.**

Let us worship God!

***Prayer of Confession (Micah 5, Luke 1)**

Eli B.

Loving God,

**even in the midst of this season of goodwill,
there is much to confess.**

**In spite of holiday cheer,
stress and anxiety rule our lives.**

**We miss the reason for the season,
focusing instead on Christmas parties, long to-do lists,
and trying to get the shopping done.**

**We fail to think about your reordered world—
a world where the lowly are lifted up
and the hungry are filled with good things.**

**Help us adjust our Christmas priorities,
that we might join with you, O God,
in preparing a world that welcomes
the one who brings us peace.**

Silent Confession

(In the silence of our hearts we confess our sins to God.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

Pastor Nabi

The ancient promises of God are fulfilled.

God does not forget us.

God's mercy extends from generation to generation.

We are forgiven. Let our souls rejoice in God!

***Sharing God's Peace**

Pastor Nabi

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also, with you!**

(Please share the Peace of Christ with those around you using the ancient formula 'The Peace of Christ.' 'And also, with you.' Please be mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands or be too close. We encourage you to use this time to send a text or emoji to someone who cannot be here.)

***Sung Response: GTG 113** chorus only "Gloria"

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Gospel Lesson: John 1:14

Pastor Ken Nabi

Children's Time

The Hayes Family

Sermon: "A Message in a Baby"

Pastor Ken Nabi

***Sung Response: GTG 314**

"Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness"

We Respond to God's Word

Minute for Mission: 50-Year Member Recognition

Loving Team

Offering: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

***Offertory:** PH 53 “What Child is This” vs. 3

***Offertory Prayer**

Pastor Nabi

Prayers of the People

Pastor Nabi

The Lord’s Prayer

Pastor Nabi

**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.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who have sinned against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

***Sung Response:** GTG 106 “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

***Charge and Benediction**

Pastor Nabi

Postlude: “Bereden Väg För Herran”

*arr. Mark Sedio
Swedish folk tune, 17th Century*

Blessing of the Angel Tree Gifts in Fellowship Hall

Pastor Nabi

(Please join us for this Blessing of Gifts)

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December Deacon of the Month
Deb Spoerke

December Elder of the Month
Larry Johnson

This Week at Church

Sunday 12.17 Third Sunday of Advent
9:00-10:00am Worship – Pastor Ken Nabi
Celebration of 50-year members.
Blessing of Angel Tree Gifts
10:15am Fellowship Time
10:20-11:15am Growing Connections –
Intergenerational Activities in Sanctuary
6:00-7:30pm Boy Scout Meeting

Monday 12.18
10:00-11:00am Staff Meeting
6:30-8:00pm Session

Wednesday 12.20
8:00-9:00am Men’s Breakfast

Saturday 12.23
9:00-11:00pm Baking Cookies for Christmas Eve
9:00-12:00pm Table Tennis

Sunday 12.24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
9:00-10:00am Worship Pastor Dan Schultz
Lighting the Candle of Love.
10:15 Fellowship Time Christmas Traditions
6:00-7:00pm Christmas Eve Pastor Dan Schultz
Traditional Christmas Eve service.
We will light the Christ Candle.

Looking Ahead

New Year’s Eve Worship	December 31	Chaplain Darren Beachy
New Year’s Day	January 1	Church Office will be closed.
Worship	January 7	Rev./Chaplain Andy Sonneborn
		Baptism of the Lord
Worship	January 14	Chaplain Evan Stark

PRAYERS

Brian C.
Pat D.
Gib D.
Arnold L.
Jesse F.
Liam A.
Burt M.
Cathie
Chastity G. and Joan S.
Marie L.

Jolene S. – Sister and her husband
Lynn K.
Ashley K.
Cathie
Dick S.
Mike S.
Dale F.
Maryann C.
Sandy T.
Pete and Carol D.

All the countries affected by unrest, violence, and war.

Please keep the family of Ruth Iacoviello in your prayers. Ruth passed away on December 7. Her funeral was held on December 15. Her obituary is [here](#).

If you have a pastoral concern, that happens before or after office hours, please leave a voice mail message, on the office phone, (920.922.0425). We will direct your call to the appropriate person, the following day.

E-Giving

Consider giving electronically. It's easy, convenient, and secure. You can sign-up on our website www.fdlpresbyterian.org. Click on 'Giving'. (You can change your giving at any time.) We are so very thankful for those of you who tithe or give regularly to our church. Your contributions help us do God's work.

Please take a moment to thank those who help make our service run smoothly. Because of them, we can worship God well.

Weekly Statistics

DATE	ATTENDANCE	WEEKLY INCOME	NOTES
December 10, 2023	135 IN THE SEATS	\$3,543.00	OFFERINGS/TITHES
12/04--12/08/2023		\$2,766.00	VANCO-ONLINE OFFERINGS
		\$6,309.00	TOTAL INCOME FOR THE WEEK
12/10/2023	5 HOUSEHOLDS		5-HOUSEHOLDS VIEWED THE ZOOM SERVICE FOR 12/10/2023