



An Order of Worship for the Lord's Day
 Stone Presbyterian Church
 A Welcoming and Affirming Congregation
 3rd Sunday of Advent ~ December 17, 2017



We Gather in the Joy

PRELUDE "Sleepers, Wake" Johann Gottfried Walther
(Please listen quietly to the prelude as the community prepares for worship)

CHORAL INTROIT & POURING OF BAPTISMAL WATER

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 126)

THE 3rd ADVENT CANDLE: JOY
 Jason, Anne, Rachael, Jillian Powles



UNISON PRAYER

Dear God, help us to get ready for your arrival. Sometimes it seems that the path to you is lost, overgrown by the weeds of commercialism. Show us that path, so that healing and wholeness can come into our lives. Without the love and forgiveness and strength that only you can give us, our lives are unfulfilled. With them, we lay life's burdens at your feet with songs of joy. Amen.

+HYMN #2 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

+THE ADVENT GIVING – The Christmas Joy Offering
You are invited to bring forward your offering of hope for the Presbyterian Church USA Christmas Joy offering

WELCOME

CONFESSION OF SIN
 This we confess.

Lord, have mercy.
 Christ, have mercy.
 Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

+A DOXOLOGY (to the tune GLORIA)
 To our God in joy we sing,
 To the Son let praises ring,
 And the Holy Spirit praise,
 As this joyous song we raise:
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!
Glo—ria in excelsis Deo!



+THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Listen for the Word of the Lord

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION
 (You are invited to say the concluding "amen" aloud.)

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11 (ESV, adapted) *This is the year of God's favor.*
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.

Psalter - Psalm 126 (ESV, adapted) *The people's hope is in the coming joy.*
(responsive)

I Thessalonians 5:16–24 *Rejoice always and pray constantly.*
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM "Prepare the Way" Allan Robert Petker

Luke 1:46b–55 *Mary sings a joyful song.*
 The Word of the Lord. / Thanks be to God. TOLD BY DONNA GOODFRIEND

CONVERSATION WITH CHILDREN

SERMON *Perpetual Endorphins*
 Dennis Dewey, Guest Preacher

Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending

ODE TO JOY

Charles Wesley, 1758 – Adapted/Revised, Dennis Dewey 2017

**Jesus comes with clouds descending, Lamb of God for sinners slain!
Thousands of the saints attending join to sing the glad refrain:
Alleluia! Alleluia to the Lord who comes again!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign!**

**Yes! Amen! Let all adore you, seated on the throne of grace;
Peoples of the earth rejoice as they behold you face-to-face!
Alleluia! Come, Lord Jesus, let your grace and love be shown!
Come, Lord Jesus, come to help us; come to heal and save your own!**

**We who saw you crucified and lifted high upon the cross
Now are filled with joy to see you, joy that overcomes all loss!
There upon the clouds of heaven we our true Messiah see,
Bringing justice, peace and mercy, joy in setting captives free!**