

THE ORDER FOR OUR WORSHIP

PRELUDE - “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” tune *Macht hoch dir Tur*; setting by Johnson

HYMN 331 - we sing, standing

ADVENT WREATH ~ 3rd SUNDAY

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Dear friends in Christ, on this Third Sunday in Advent, we are invited to rejoice in the Lord, for He is near. In anticipation of the joy of Christmas, we light the third candle on the Advent wreath, recalling that joy is one of the surest signs of God’s presence among us.

Lord Jesus, our hearts are full of joy, for You are near. **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, You come with the Good News of salvation for Your holy people. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, the power of Your love brings us healing and forgiveness. **Lord, have mercy.**

May Almighty God have mercy upon you, forgive your sins, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

**O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav’nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!**

GREETING, followed by PRAYER

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray. **Lord Jesus Christ, we implore
You to hear our prayers and to lighten the**

darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

(please be seated)

FIRST LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

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

PSALM 85

*Pastor reads odd numbered verses
Congregation reads even numbered verses*

SECOND LESSON *(bulletin back page)*

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

page 156 - **ALLELUIA VERSE**

we sing, standing

GOSPEL *(bulletin back page)*

*Before, all shout: Glory to you, O Lord!
After, all shout: Praise to you, O Christ!*

HYMN 345 - we sing, seated

SERMON

APOSTLES’ CREED - hymnal, back cover

OFFERTORY

Bell Choir plays “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” traditional English carol arr. by Douglas Wagner

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: **Hear our prayer!**

LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN 349 - we sing, standing

NEWS AND NOTES

Altar Flowers this morning are from Jeff and Kyong Mann in celebration of their 41st wedding anniversary.

All are Welcome to join us at our Advent Jubilee Lunch following this morning’s 10:30 service.

Last Sunday Here

Attending: 103 Offering: \$13,698

This Week Here

Wed - 1:30AM - Bible Study
- 7:15PM - Bell Choir
- 8:00PM - Parish Choir
Thur -10:00AM - Bulletin Pick-Up
Sat - 9:00AM - Christmas Decorating

2022 Pledge - Please return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. Your pledge will assist CLC in planning and meeting our financial obligations. Thank you!

A WORD ABOUT THE LESSONS

The Coming of Jesus Enables Us to Rejoice - The Third Sunday in Advent has traditionally been called by the Latin word *Gaudete*, meaning “Rejoice!” For as you are called to repentance, so also are you urged to rejoice in the coming of the Lord, Jesus Christ. By His own cross, He has accomplished salvation for you; “*he has cleared away your enemies,*” “*taken away the judgments against you*” and come to reign in your midst. Indeed, He rejoices over you with gladness and song (Zeph. 3:15–17)! Therefore, even from prison St. Paul encourages us to “*rejoice in the Lord always,*” knowing that the peace of God will guard and keep us in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:4, 7). We find an example and encouragement in the case of John the Baptist. As he languishes in prison, he calls upon Jesus and is strengthened by the Word of the Gospel that he receives. The same good news is preached to you, by which all things are made new and even “*the dead are raised up*” (Luke 7:22). Do not be offended by the cross, therefore, but let your life be one of prayer and thanksgiving (Luke 7:23; Phil. 4:6).

POSTLUDE - “*Rejoice Greatly in the Lord*” by Rex Koury

Cheshire Community Food Pantry’s First Annual Kid’s Holiday Bazaar - The deadline for collecting giftable items for the *Kid’s Holiday Bazaar* items is **December 17th**. If you would care to participate, kindly bring your donations in to CLC no later than Thursday, **December 16th**. A box for donations is located next to the library entrance.

Mugs celebrating CLC’s 65th anniversary are available for purchase this morning. The cost is \$8/each; 2 for \$15.

Christmas Decorating - please join us on Saturday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. to lend a hand decorating our building. Many hands make light work and your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

CLC 50th Anniversary Ornaments, located on the hallway counter, are free to take home - help yourself!