

United Presbyterian Church  
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December 14, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude                    *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Lighting the Advent Candle                    Mike and Beth Stone/ Jerry and Gail Long

Children of God, what are we waiting for?  
**We wait for joy that cannot be stolen,  
joy that wells up, even in wilderness places.**  
We wait for laughter to ring out in mourning,  
for songs of gladness to rise in broken streets  
**We wait for joy that is more than happiness,  
to rejoice in God's unshakable love.**

Today we light three candles...

\*Gathering Song    *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* (vv. 1,4-5)                    123

*It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to all, from heaven's all-gracious King":  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.*

*And you, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;  
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

Prayer of the Day

Eric Arvidson, Lay Reader

O Giver of life, you turn mourning into dancing. You surprise us with beauty in unlikely places. Joy is your gift and invitation to rejoice always, to pray without ceasing, to give thanks in all things. May we carry this joy like a lantern, shining steadily through the waiting. Amen.

\*Sharing the Peace of Christ

## We Listen for God's Word

Scripture.	Isaiah 35:1-10	Pew Bible, Page 508
Anthem	<i>Advent Noel</i>	Chancel Choir
Scripture	Matthew 11:2-11	Pew Bible, Page 688-89
Message	Do you believe?	Rev. Edward Dunn

## We Respond to God's Word

\*Responding Song      *People, Look East (w1,3,5)*      105

*People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able; trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing to day;  
Love, the Guest is on the way.*

*Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled  
Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today;  
Love, the Bird, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today;  
Love, the Lord is on the way.*

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

## Receiving our Offering

\*Doxology    *Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

\*Sending Song    *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout (vv3-4)*    100

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn*

*Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around*

*My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

\*Blessing

Postlude