

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

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

*Responding Song	<i>People, Look East (vv1,3,5)</i>	105
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*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.*

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