

Worship Service on December 17, 2023

Welcome and Announcements ~ Annie Crumb

Tonight ~ There is a Combined Christmas Youth Group party from 5 to 6:30 pm at FCC's youth room.

Monday ~ The Uplift Cancer Support Group has a meeting at the church at 3 pm.

Wednesday ~ The Holiday Project food boxes are being assembled at the Catholic church between 9 am and noon. If you can stop by and help, that would be wonderful. Thank you to everyone who bought gifts for the children assigned to our church.

~ Wisdom of the Body meeting at 10 am at Theresa's house.

Thursday ~ There is a choir practice planned for 7 pm at the church.

Next Sunday ~ We will have our regular worship service at 10:30 am and then a Candlelight Christmas Eve service at 7 pm with lessons and carols. Please let Pastor Rebecca know if you would like to read a passage of Scripture.

Poinsettia Dedications

<i><u>From:</u></i>	<i><u>in loving memory of:</u></i>
<i>Russ and Glenna Taxter</i>	<i>Russell Sr. and Dorothy Taxter</i>
<i>Linell and Jerry Pike</i>	<i>Everett and Grace R. Hazelton</i>
<i>Alvie McKinstry</i>	<i>Paul and Nellie Pike</i>
<i>Barb and Jim West</i>	<i>Nelson and Erna Caron</i>
	<i>Alvie and Janet McKinstry</i>
	<i>Cora and Lewis West</i>
	<i>Miriam and Paul Wertman</i>
	<i>Mark George</i>

Lighting the Candle of Joy



Choir Song ~ "A Song for Advent"

Call to Worship ~ Psalm 5:11-12 (NIV) read by Annie crumb.
Please join in reading the bold lines.

¹¹ Let all who take refuge in you be glad;

let them ever sing for joy.

Spread your protection over them,

that those who love your name may rejoice in you.

¹² Surely, Lord, you bless the righteous;

you surround them with your favor as with a shield.

Song ~ "Joy to the World" (#143 in the blue hymnal)

Joy to the World, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive her King

Let every heart prepare him room

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and nature sing

And heaven and heaven and nature sing

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!

Let all their songs employ

While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat the sounding joy

Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy

He rules the world with truth and grace

And makes the nations prove

The glories of his righteousness

And wonders of his love

And wonders of his love

And wonders and wonders of his love.

Words ~ Eleanor Farjeon, 1928, Music ~ Traditional French carol

Praying Together ~

**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**

Song ~ “How Great Our Joy” (#170 in the blue hymnal)

*While by the sheep we watched at night
Lo, there appeared an angel bright*

Refrain

How great our joy! (Great our joy!)

Joy, joy, joy! (Joy, joy, joy!)

Glory to God who reigns on high!

Glory to God who reigns on high

Born is the Child, in manger small

Whom God has sent to save us all (Refrain)

Go you this night, and you shall find

The Savior born for humankind (Refrain)

Jesus, the gift from heaven above

Fills all our hearts with joy and love (Refrain)

Traditional German Carol | Public Domain

Introducing the Sermon ~ Pastor Rebecca

Scripture Text ~ Luke 1:39-66 (NIV) read by Annie Crumb

- ³⁹ At that time Mary got ready
and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,
⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth.
⁴¹ When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb,
and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.
⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed:
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the child you will bear!
⁴³ But why am I so favored,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
⁴⁴ As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears,
the baby in my womb leaped for joy.
⁴⁵ Blessed is she who has believed
that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

⁴⁶ And Mary said:
“My soul glorifies the Lord
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.
From now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
⁵² He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.
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⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful
⁵⁵ to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors.”
⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months
and then returned home.
⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby,
she gave birth to a son.
⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives heard
that the Lord had shown her great mercy,
and they shared her joy.
⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child,
and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah,
⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said,
“No! He is to be called John.”
⁶¹ They said to her,
“There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”
⁶² Then they made signs to his father,
to find out what he would like to name the child.
⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment he wrote,
“His name is John.”
⁶⁴ Immediately his mouth was opened, and his tongue set free,
and he began to speak, praising God.
⁶⁵ All the neighbors were filled with awe,
and throughout the hill country of Judea
people were talking about all these things.
⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking,
“What then is this child going to be?”
For the Lord’s hand was with him.

Sermon~ “Spreading Joy” ~ Rev. Rebecca Sommons

Song ~ the worship team will lead us in singing

“Hymn of Joy”

*Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, opening to the sun above
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness. Drive the dark of doubt away
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day*

Chorus

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel

Your love has come here to dwell

*All Thy works with joy surround Thee. Earth and heaven reflect Thy rays
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of unbroken praise
Field and forest vale and mountain, flowery meadow flashing sea
Singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee*

Chorus

*Mortals join the happy chorus, which the morning stars began
Father love is reigning over us. Brother love binds man to man
Ever singing march we onward, victors in the midst of strife
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life*

CCLI Song # 7050420 Chris Tomlin | Ed Cash
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Benediction ~ based on Psalm 28:6-7 (NLV)

May honor and thanks be given to the Lord,
because He has heard our prayers
The Lord is our strength and safe cover.
May we trust in Him and receive His help.
May our hearts be full of joy
as we thank him with our songs.