

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ROSWELL, NEW MEXICO**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 17, 2017

10:00 A.M.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION Christmas Joy Offering Margo Fullinwider

CHIMES

PRELUDE Fantasia on "The First Nowell" (Hughes)

LIGHTING THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE The Smith Family

***OPENING HYMN #88** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" verses 1-4
(Helmores)

***OPENING PRAYER**

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we are gathered on this third Sunday of Advent, watching, waiting, and hoping, yet we confess that we are still not ready to welcome the Christ child, or to welcome him on the Day of his return. We confess that we do not rejoice always; we do not pray without ceasing; we do not give thanks in all circumstances; we do not always hold fast to what is good; we do not abstain from every form of sinfulness. We remain so desperately in need of your pardon; forgive us, we pray. Through your mighty Spirit, prepare us for the coming of the Lord, so that we may be found sound and blameless at his return. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***GLORY BE TO THE FATHER #581**

Gloria Patri (*Greatorex*)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen. Amen.**

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Please exchange these words with your neighbors: “The peace of the Lord be with you.” “And also with you.”

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READING FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 61:1-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT LETTERS

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Leavitt)

***READING FROM THE GOSPELS**

John 1:6-8, 19-28

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

A MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

SERMON

“I will Greatly Rejoice!”

***HYMN #88**

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” verses 5-7 (Helmores)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From *The Scots Confession* (1560)

When the fullness of time came, God sent his Son, his eternal wisdom, the substance of his own glory, into this world, who took the nature of humanity from the substance of a woman, a virgin, by means of the Holy Ghost. And so was born the “just seed of David,” the “Angel of the great counsel of God,” the very Messiah promised, whom we confess and acknowledge to be Emmanuel,

true God and true man, two perfect natures united and joined in one person.

SHARING OF PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

God who restores,
You do great things for us!
You fill us with laughter,
turning tears of sadness into shouts of joy.
**You send us prophets, who point the way to justice
and show the way to you.**
We thank you for sending good news to us
and repairing so much that we have devastated.

**In this season of light,
we raise in prayer so many who wait in darkness:
people oppressed by poverty and discrimination,
by political upheaval or dangerous rulers;
those who are imprisoned.**

Right what is wrong among us and in us
and restore us to you,
to others, and
to ourselves.

**Make the brokenhearted whole again;
comfort those who mourn;
repair our ruined cities.**

In all the jostling and jingling of these days,
grant that we do not lose sight of you
or those whom you especially came to serve:
people in need of healing,
people who are forgotten and abused,
the ones who are lost,
and the ones we have made to feel small and worthless.

**Light of the world,
live among us always,
full of grace and truth. Amen.**

RETURNING TITHES AND OFFERINGS TO GOD

MUSICAL OFFERING

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” (Rasley)

***PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW #606**

(Genevan Psalter)

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,
holy is your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN #128** “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” (Polish Folk Melody)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE**

*Please stand if you are able where asterisks are printed.

Words in **bold print** are spoken by the congregation.