

Massanutten Presbyterian Church
A Service for the Lord's Day
Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 2022

10:30 a.m.

We Gather at God's Call

Introit

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Once In Royal David's City

-Johnson

*Lighting of the Advent Candle (*responsively*)

Led by Robin and Diann Reed

Advent is a season of expectation,

A time when we wait with full hearts,

A time when all things seem possible.

Even joy.

Pure joy.

It is joy to the just to do justice,

Joy for the dreamer to dream,

**Joy in the presence of angels,
Joy for the Redeemer to redeem.**

Joy is not something we seek;
Joy is a gift of grace.
Let us not withhold joy from our hearts,
But let us rejoice,
For our Redeemer draws near.

**It is joy to the just to do justice,
Joy for the dreamer to dream,
Joy in the presence of angels,
Joy for the Redeemer to redeem.**

Redeemer draws near.
And as we sing our joys to the world,
We sing with gratitude
To the One
Who is our joy.
For in thy presence is the fullness of joy.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (*vv. 5, 6, special verse**)

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*O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;*

make safe the way that leads on high,

and close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

our spirits by thine advent here;

disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel

shall come to thee, O Israel.

O God of mercy, hear us as we pray;

Dispel the gloomy dark that dims our way,

Unveil the mystery of our Savior's birth;

Let Heaven's glory shine upon the Earth.

Rejoice! Rejoice! The Child of Hope draws near;

An infant born to share God's Kingdom here.

**The final verse was written by Jean Kilby*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Magnificent God,

it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom
and the hungry being filled with good things.

We may not want the powerful to be brought down
or the rich to be sent away empty.

We know that sometimes, we are the powerful.

Sometimes, we are the rich.

Sometimes, we are the ones with privilege,
ignoring and harming those you would lift up.

Forgive us, humble us, refocus us,

that we may follow your way of life and truth. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness (*responsively*)

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God!**

*Response of Praise *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (v. 2)*

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*Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.*

*By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.*

We Gather Around God's Word

Time with the Children Pastor Ann Pettit

Anthem Night of Silence John Ferguson

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46-55

Sermon Anticipating Joy Pastor Keith Phillips

*Affirmation of Faith Of the Father's Love Begotten (vv. 3-4) 108

*O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,

whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.

Now he shines, the long-expected.

Let creation praise its Lord,

evermore and evermore!

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

O Magnum Mysterium

Thomas Luis De Victoria

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

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.

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn

My Soul Cries Out

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*My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?*

REFRAIN:

*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 I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me,
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and to those who would for you yearn,
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)*

*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. (Refrain)*

*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. (Refrain)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Prepare the way of the Lord,

and all people will see

the salvation of our God.

Life at Massanutten

- **Today is the Fourth Sunday in Advent.** This year our worship focus is: *Reclaiming Hope*. We are exploring hope in a variety of ways, today focusing on what it means *to Anticipate Joy*. Each week we have reflected on what it means to reclaim hope through the day's focus, writing down our thoughts on the lavender cards in the chair racks. Those worshipping online are invited to email your responses to the pastor preaching that day and your thoughts will be transferred to a lavender card.
- As the season of Advent moves us toward Christmas, we extend our appreciation to the teams and individuals who've helped us experience the season through music (our choirs and their directors), through liturgy and visual arts (Jean Kilby, the Cale Family, the Worship Commission, Skip Wissinger and Don Enslin), through fellowship and care (the Community Life Commission, Presbyterian Women, the Men's Prayer Group, our youth and their leaders), through outreach (the Food Pantry, Mission and Service Commission), along with many individual offerings that are shared through the weeks. **Thank you—your gifts shape lives.**
- **Our Youth Christmas Party and Mission Project** is Today! We will meet at 6pm at Sunnyside to share Christmas cheer. Then we will walk (weather permitting) to the Massanetta Springs dining room to have dinner and a White Elephant Gift Exchange.
- We will receive the **Christmas Joy Offering** today and on Christmas Eve. Gifts to this offering will be used to assist current and retired PC(USA) church workers, as well as educational institutions related to the denomination that equip communities of color.

- **Office hours update:** The church office will be open December 19-21 from 8:00 am - 12:00 noon, and will be closed from December 23 - January 2. Voicemail and e-mail will be checked regularly.
- **The Congregational Nominating Committee** invites your thoughtful recommendations to help them as they discern the congregation's needs & the gifts of those who will be invited to serve. To share a name, please complete a nomination form which can found at the church on Sunday mornings.
- **Presbyterian Women Circles** meet for Bible Study and prayer each 2nd Tuesday morning at 10:00 am (Fellowship Hall); 2nd Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 pm (Bethel Room in Sunnyside Assisted Living Area); and 2nd Wednesday evening at 4:00 pm (Fellowship Hall). To learn more, contact the church office.
- **Inclement Weather Policy for MPC**—In case of inclement weather, check church closings on WHSV (Harrisonburg television station) or the church website, www.massanuttenchurch.org.
- **Safety Message**—Do not unlock or prop open exterior doors. A door monitor from your group should let people in and latecomer can use the door bell.

This Week At MPC

Sunday, Dec. 18

9:00am	Adult Sunday School
9:30am	Youth Breakfast
	Faith Village
	Parent Fellowship
10:30am	Worship
	Godly Play
6:00pm	Youth Christmas Party (<i>Sunnyside & Massanetta</i>)

Monday, Dec. 19 *Church Office Closed*
6:00pm Boy Scout Court of Honor (FH)
7:00pm Massanutten Ringers

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Wednesday, Dec. 21
7:30am Men's Prayer Group (FH)
7:00pm Blue Christmas Service (S)
7:00pm *No Choir rehearsal*

Thursday, Dec. 22

Friday, Dec. 23 *Church Office Closed*

Saturday, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve
Office Closed
4:30pm Family Candlelighting Service
7:00pm Candlelighting and Communion

Sunday, Dec. 25—Christmas
No Sunday School Today
10:30am Remote Christmas Day Worship

Monday, Dec. 26-Jan. 2, 2023
Church Office Closed

Serving December 18

Door Monitors: Don Enslin & Marc Davis

Greeters: Dale & Dorothy Dobroth

Ushers and Water Pourers: Julia Sensabaugh & Helen Groves

Nursery: Katie Rodgers & Erin Basgier

Faith Village:

Godly Play: Robin & Diann Reed

High School Breakfast: Diann Reed

Middle School Youth: Sarah Rimer & Karen Mast

High School Youth: Gus Scheidt & Nancy Wayland

Serving December 25—Remote Service Only

Serving January 1

Door Monitor: Bo Hobbie

Greeters: TBD

Ushers and Water Pourers: Greg & Ann Trobaugh

Nursery: Katie Rodgers

Faith Village: *No Godly Play Today*

Godly Play: *No Godly Play Today*

High School Breakfast: *No Breakfast Today*

Middle School Youth: *No Youth Today*

High School Youth: *No Youth Today*

**UPCOMING ADVENT AND
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Wednesday, December 21st at 7:00pm

*A reflective service for those of us
for whom the Christmas season is especially difficult.*

Christmas Eve Worship Services

Saturday, December 24th

4:30pm - *Family Candlelighting Service*

7:00pm - *Candlelighting and Communion*

Christmas Day Remote Worship

Sunday, December 25th

A pre-recorded service that invites us to worship together in places near and far.

An email with a link to that service will be sent out on Christmas morning.

Please note: There will not be a worship service
in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 25th.

Children and Youth

Sunday, December 18

9:30am Faith Village
 Youth Breakfast
 Parent Fellowship

10:30am Worship
 Godly Play

6:00pm Youth Christmas Party &
 Mission Project

Sunday, December 25

No Children or Youth

Programming Today

10:30am Remote Worship Service

*Seeking to nurture and empower our children and youth to live and serve
in the world as loving disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Massanutten Presbyterian Church
Session and Staff

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Melissa Caldwell	Ka Guinn	Jan Arnold
Matt Hamblen	John Kaltenborn	Ben Craig
Janet Morris	Bill Kilby	Bill Frazier
Doug Smith	Ron Matthews	Chris Hamilton
Skip Wissinger	Janina Peachey	Julia Sensabaugh

Clerk: Jody Humphreys; **Moderators:** Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips

Ann Pettit and Keith Phillips, Co-Pastors

(apettit@massanuttenchurch.org; kphillips@massanuttenchurch.org)

Bob Jerome, Director of Music (bjerome@massanuttenchurch.org)

Carol Lown, Organist (clown@massanuttenchurch.org)

Hannah Altman, Children and Youth Program Director

(haltman@massanuttenchurch.org)

Karen Leecy, Office Manager (kleecy@massanuttenchurch.org)

Danielle Cunningham, Digital Media Communications Coordinator

(dcunningham@massanuttenchurch.org)

Katie Rodgers, Nursery Caregiver

Greg Trobaugh, Treasurer (gtrobaugh@comcast.net)