

Wheat Ridge Presbyterian Church Worship, December 13, 2020 • Advent 3: Joy

Psalm 126 • Luke 1:46-55 • www.WRPres.org •

“THOSE WHO DREAM... sow joy”

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Prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Bold = all read • Regular = Leader

Prelude

Sheep May Safely Graze

Organist, Julie Pulliam
J.S. Bach Arr. Dorothy Wells

Welcome and Announcements

The Rev. Dr. Laura S. Sugg

Call to Worship*

Candle Lighting Liturgy: The Candle of Joy

Prayer for Renewal

O Great Writer,

With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers,
there should be no end to my joy.

And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy,
I let it slip away like loose change.

Instead of singing like Mary, or dancing like David,

I pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive me.

Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing
as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive.

Maybe they have joy figured out.

Gratefully we pray, amen.

Assurance of God's Grace

God's love is everlasting.

God's mercy is boundless.

The new life we have in Christ

enables us to sow joy. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

vv. 1 & 2, Traditional Carol
Presbyterian Hymnal # 5

*1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.*

*2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.*

Prayer for Illumination

Creator God,

Scripture is flooded with dream-like images:

the lion lying down with the lamb,
justice rolling like a mighty river,
swords being beaten into plowshares,
the prisoner being set free,
good news to the oppressed,
the whole world rejoicing.

To our human ears, there are times when these words can sound like nothing more than a far-off dream—
downplaying prophecy to fantasy.
However, what we know is that to dream is to hope,
and to hope is to imagine,
and to imagine is to wonder,
and to wonder is to believe,
and to believe is to live and breathe for your promised day.
So give us the strength to listen as we dream, O God.
For deep down, we know your words are the very thing we need.
Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 126

Luke 1:46-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time with All Ages

Linda Valo, Dir. Of Christian Educ.

Message: THOSE WHO DREAM... *sow joy*

Special Music

Lift Your Eyes,

Katie Sakanai
Aaron David Miller I

Prayers of the People concluding with 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Traditional Carol
Presbyterian Hymnal # 44

1 *O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*
2 *For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth!*

3 *How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.*
4 *O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!*

Closing Sentences of Affirmation

Great Creator,
we are in awe of you.
We will never know how you managed to dream up

mountains and valleys,
freckles, dimples, and curly hair,
a cool morning mist,
the change of seasons,
or the magic of music.
Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.
And because we are in awe of you,
we believe we must follow Mary's lead
and allow our souls to sing.
We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness
is complete gratitude,
which looks like love for our neighbor,
justice for the poor,
food for the hungry,
and joy that overflows.
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,
we believe that our song is pleasing to you.
We believe. Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, amen.

Benediction

Postlude

*Good News from the Angels Bring
(Christmas Chorale)*

Organist, Julie Pulliam
Johann Pachelbel

*If you watch the worship service at 10 AM on Facebook, please transition to Fellowship Time
on Zoom at 11:00 AM using the link in the congregational emails.*

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