

And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord!" And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for God has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for the One who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's name. And God's mercy is on those who fear God from generation to generation. God has shown strength with God's arm, God has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, God has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; God has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich God has sent empty away. God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy, as God spoke to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his posterity forever."

L: This is the word of the Lord; P: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Source of Our Joy" Rev. Frank Wyche

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed* Inside front cover of hymnal

*HYMN *There's a Song in the Air* Bulletin Insert

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #815

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS; MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child* Bulletin Insert

*BENEDICTION

CHORAL CLOSE *Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men* Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE Adam Kelly, Accompanist



BEHOLD, I bring you tidings — of — GREAT JOY!

Hebron Presbyterian Church

423 Hebron Road

Staunton, VA 24401

Telephone: 540-885-1648

Email: myhebronpc@gmail.com

December 16, 2018 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

HEBRON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Adam Kelly, Accompanist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

I Heard the Bells

Chancel Choir

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Philippians 4: 4-7

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

P: Let all people know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand.

L: Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

P: And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER** ~ From the PCUSA *Book of Common Worship*

God our Father, your eternal Word came into humanity as the child Jesus when the virgin Mary, filled with your grace, committed her life to your service. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word to us, and move us by the Holy Spirit to bless you and proclaim your wonderful works. We pray all these things in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus; Amen.

***HYMN**

How Great Our Joy!

#269

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH ~ *The Candle of Joy*

L: Today we light the Candle of Joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the first word of the reading from Philippians 4:4 on this day.

P: We rejoice in God's love for us and God's presence with us. We especially rejoice in this season as we remember how God the Son came to us in Jesus, born into humanity on Christmas Day.

L: Theologian Henri Nouwen said the difference between joy and happiness is that happiness is based on our reactions to external conditions, such as people or events or things, while joy is "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death – can take that love away."

P: We rejoice that Jesus is with us always, and that nothing "in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Mt. 28:20; Rom. 8:39)

L: We rejoice that Jesus defeated sin and death, restoring us to a right relationship with God, and giving us eternal life by faith in him.

P: We join Elizabeth and her unborn child in rejoicing in the coming of the Savior, and in blessing and praising Mary for her faith, and for her role in fulfilling God's plan for the salvation of humankind. Amen!



Third Sunday in Advent

CALL TO CONFESSION

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, forgive our misplaced priorities. We plan and prepare for the holiday celebrations and activities, but we push aside our time with you. We make time for planning, but not for prayer. We make time for socializing, but not for studying scripture. We prepare gift lists, but ignore those in need. We give things, instead of our time and our love. In this season of busy-ness, draw our hearts to you, and to others. Help us to find joy in this season not by what we receive, but from what you have given us.

(Silent prayer and personal confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

L: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

***GLORIA PATRI**

#813

ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know?

Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT RESPONSIVE READING ~ Isaiah 61: 10a,11; 9: 6-7a

L: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall exult in my God; for the LORD has clothed me with the garments of salvation, and God has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

P: As the earth brings forth its shoots, and a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.

L: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder.

P: His name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end.

GOSPEL LESSON ~ Luke 1: 26-55 ~ Pages 887-888 in the pew Bible

In the sixth month [of Elizabeth's pregnancy with John the Baptist] the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"