

Waiting...for Joy

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever. **Amen.** Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving and forgiving God, **we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ. Amen.**

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ☩ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn – Joy to the World #267 (red hymnal), #39 (green)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, 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.
3. No more let sin and sorrow grow nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
4. 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, wonders of his love.

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. Show us your gift of joy in new ways so that we might serve you more faithfully. We pray this in your holy name. Amen.

Kids' Sermon

Candle Lighting

Gospel Hymn – God Came Down #253 (red hymnal)

1. God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; God came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.
2. God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; God came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forevermore.
3. God came down that we may have light; God came down that we may have light; God came down that we may have light; hallelujah forevermore.

4. God came down that we may have peace; God came down that we may have peace; God came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forevermore.
5. God came down that we may have grace; God came down that we may have grace; God came down that we may have grace; hallelujah forevermore.
6. God came down that we may have joy; God came down that we may have joy; God came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forevermore.

Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

Sermon

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart; I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay. And I'm so happy, so very happy, I've got the joy of Christmas in my heart. And I'm so happy, so very happy, I've got the joy of Christmas in my heart. (Sing twice)

Prayers of the People

Reflection Music

Holy Communion

Benediction

Soon and Very Soon #439 (red hymnal)

1. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King, soon and very soon we are going to see the King, soon and very soon we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the king.
2. No more crying there, we are going to see the King, No more crying there, we are going to see the King, No more crying there, we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the king.
3. No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King, No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the king.
4. Soon and very soon we are going to see the King, soon and very soon we are going to see the King, soon and very soon we are going to see the King. Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're going to see the king.

Announcements

Postlude

Drive-thru Offering Collection, Advent Bag Pick-up, & Holy Communion Distribution under the awning at the Parish Center