

CANTON

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Established 1904



"Isaiah 35" by J. Lonneman

The Third Sunday in Advent

THE 14th DAY OF DECEMBER

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH.....by Rev. Elizabeth Cole Goodrich

Hear these words from the Psalmist:

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

And these words, from the Gospel according to John:

all things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

**What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.**

*O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

We light the first candle of Hope,

Where fear narrows our vision, let this light widen our sight.

We light the candle of Peace.

**Peace that lives within us that is the promise
of a liberation birthing, truth telling God in flesh.**

We light the candle of Joy.

We will bring the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

You shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God.

With prophets and apostles, and with all the saints, we rejoice in the Lord.

Lord of all and Savior of each one of us...Come quickly.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus, our Light and our Salvation.

Let us magnify the Lord with hope, peace, and joy that overcomes fear!

✠ HYMN 107: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*.....REJOICE, REJOICE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION.....adapted from *Joy to the World*

Holy God, we confess that we are careless with our faith. We make room for sins and sorrows to grow. Our indifference becomes a curse against us and those around us. Forgive us, we pray, and create a right spirit within us. We pray for the coming of Christ; we pray for his blessings to flow; we pray for his joy to live in us. Rule our world with truth and grace, through Jesus Christ our King. Amen.

A TIME OF SILENT PRAYER

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And also with you.

✠ HYMN 583: *Gloria, Gloria*.....GLORIA (Taizé)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PROPHETIC READING.....Isaiah 35:1-10

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM RESPONSE.....Psalm 146:5-10

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God,
who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

**The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.**

The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the LORD!

GOSPEL READING.....Matthew 11:2-6

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: *Waiting in Joy*.....The Reverend Esta Jarrett

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✚ HYMN 88: *O Come O Come Emmanuel, stanzas 2, 4, 5.....*VENI EMMANUEL LM

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show; and teach us in her ways to go.
(Chorus) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O Come, thou Root of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell thy people save and give them victory o'er the grave. (Chorus)*

*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. (Chorus)*

✚ A CREED FOR TROUBLED TIMES.....Affirmation of Faith by Bruce Prewer

When nation rises against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, the end is not violence:
for there is a God of resilient, redeeming love,
and the Brighter Purpose is at work in the shadows, and the darkness cannot smother it.

Lord we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When there are earthquakes, famines and pestilences and collisions among the stars,
the end is not chaos:

God the Creator of the heavens and the earth has not forsaken us,
and the harmony will again break out and gather to hasten towards consummation.

Lord we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When believers are arrested and abused, dragged before kings and governors,
the end is not injustice:
the Holy Spirit is always with you in all your trials and travail,
and words will be given to confound your adversaries and shake the gates of hell.

Lord we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

When parents, brothers, sisters, relatives or friends, betray you even unto death,
the end is not alienation:

the crucified Christ will reconcile all things seen and unseen,
and the glorious finale is much nearer than when you first believed.

Lord we believe, strengthen our timid faith.

OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR POSSESSIONS

Offerings may be made via our website or the Vanco app.

✚ DOXOLOGY, HYMN 606: *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow...*OLD HUNDREDTH

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 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.

SENDING

✝ HYMN 87: *Comfort, Comfort Now My People*.....GENEVAN 42

✝ CHARGE AND BLESSING

✝ HYMN 601: *Amen*.....DANISH AMEN

POSTLUDE

✝ Please stand as you are able

Welcome to Canton Presbyterian Church.

Just as you are, you are part of the body of Christ with us, and we are glad you are here.

Our staff are Rev. Esta Jarrett (Pastor) and Jeffrey Gonce (Music Director).

If you would like to contact the Pastor, please call or text 828-549-8338 or email
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