

APOLLO UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024

11:00 a.m.

We Gather in God's Name

PRELUDE "Celebrate the Day" F. Ritter

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***HYMN #134** "Joy to the World" v. 1

BIRTHDAYS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We have named our joy out loud, and it is clear—

All: God is in our joy.

One: God is in this room.

All: We have reason to celebrate.

One: We have a reason to sing.

All: Thanks be to God for the bright hope of this day.

HYMN #134 "Joy to the World" vv. 2,3,4

CALL TO CONFESSION Kathy Wilson

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

One: Joyful God, you told us that in order to enter the kingdom of heaven, we must be like children.

All: Did you mean that like children, we must practice unhindered joy?

One: Did you mean that like children, we should lean into laughter, release our cynicism, and open ourselves to delight?

All: In a world as broken and battered as ours, we admit, this often seems easier said than done.

One: Forgive us, patient God, for the moments when we are so focused on the bad that we miss the good.

All: Forgive us for hearing the nativity story and staying in our seats instead of jumping for joy.

One: We know that even now you are sowing delight in our lives.

All: Open our hearts up to it. With gratitude we pray, amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

One: Friends, hear and believe the good news of the Gospel:

All: We are seen. We are loved. We are forgiven.

***#113 "Angels We Have Heard on High" Refrain only**

We Listen to God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

LESSON ONE

LISTEN FOR JOY! Luke 2:10 Isaiah 9:2-3

SING WITH JOY! * HYMN #133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

PRACTICE JOY! Joy Found in Scripture

LESSON TWO

LISTEN FOR JOY! Matthew 2:10 Psalm 148

SING WITH JOY! *HYMN #611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

PRACTICE JOY! Joy Found in Community

One: Friends, the peace and joy of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pass joy and peace to one another.

LESSON THREE

LISTEN FOR JOY! Psalm 126:1-3 Isaiah 55:12-13

**SING WITH JOY! * HYMN #157 “I Danced in the Morning”
v.1**

PRACTICE JOY!

Joy Found in Prayer & Giving

On the provided paper squares, write three prayers of gratitude for things that bring you joy. When you are finished writing, you are encouraged to come forward and hang your written prayers along the twine that is strung throughout the arch. You are also encouraged to place your tithes and offerings in the plates on the Communion Table. If it is more graceful for you to remain seated, raise your hand and someone will collect your prayers and offerings.

SENDING

* HYMN #80 “You Shall Go Out With Joy”

* CHARGE & BLESSING

POSTLUDE “The Shepherds Christmas” B. Price

*Please stand in body or spirit

ACOLYTE TODAY: CAELIN KAMINSKI

SUNDAY MORNING COUNTERS, OPENERS & CLOSERS

December 29 ~ Shelly Hilty & Laura Uncapher

January 5 ~ Amy Shupe & Derek Hilty

Wrapping our community in God's love, one person at a time.

We believe that we are all ministers supported by:

Rev. Niki Atkinson – Office Hours Wed. & Fri. 9:30-4:00

Please call for appointments.

E-mail pastor@aupc.comcastbiz.net

Amy Shupe, Organist; Joel Varga, Assistant Organist

Zach Bush, Trumpeter Sam Mullooly, Trombonist

Linda Truffa, Office Administrator

Dan Tomlinson, Custodian

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Office Hours: Monday through Thursday – 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM



FOR THE BEGINNING

— DON'T FORGET TO LAUGH —



From a center point, tulip-like flowers stretch and bloom, referencing the Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, “The Earth laughs in flowers.”

