

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

PRELUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

OPENING SENTENCES

Cliff Lyda

My soul magnifies the Lord;

My spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

(Luke 1:46-47)

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
The desert shall rejoice and blossom.

**Like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
And rejoice with joy and singing.**

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you. Now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence will end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Almighty God, who inhabits eternity and dwells with those who are of a humble and contrite spirit: we confess before you that we have ignored the presence of your Spirit and have failed to look for the coming of Christ our Savior. We have been blind to his coming in the presence of the suffering, the hungry, the exiled, the destitute, the sick, and the imprisoned. In your great

goodness and mercy put away our offenses and cleanse our hearts for Jesus' sake.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI "Glory Be to the Father" Hymn #581

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World
without end, Amen."

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

p.505, OT

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:2-11

p.9, NT

Isaiah 35:1-10 p.505, OT

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴ Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
⁸ A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
⁹ No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11:2-11 p.9, NT

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

¹¹ "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Joy And Gladness”

Cliff Lyda

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostle’s Creed)

Hymnal p.35

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (with the Lord’s Prayer)

Hymnal p.35

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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING MUSIC

Tommy Clay, Jr.

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Hymn #606

“Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.”

CANTATA

Chancel Choir

“Come Emmanuel”

“O Come To Set Us Free”

“Angels Are Making Their Rounds”

“Ave Maria” (Mary Garcia)

“What Child Is This”

“O Holy Night”

“The Little Drummer Boy”

“Hallelujah Chorus”

BLESSING AND CHARGE

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

“Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place”

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;
I can feel His mighty power and His grace.
I can hear the brush of angel's wings,
I see glory on each face;
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

POSTLUDE

Tommy Clay, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (Details on our website, Facebook, Realm & 386-385-3040.)

Church Activities

Small Groups-Sunday 9:15 am; Tues. 4:00 pm; Wed. 5:00 pm.

Presbyterian Women-Circles meet every 2nd Tuesday, 10:30am & 6:30pm in the Garden Room.

Outreach Ministries

Bread of Life-December needs are Ranch Dressing and Mayonnaise packets, Jar Mayonnaise, Turkey Gravy, Brown Gravy and Pork Gravy Packets, Cream of Mushroom Soup, Ziploc Bags - sandwich size, Ziploc Freezer bags.

Social Connections-Thurs. 1pm in Zoom Rm. Contact Shaaron Kohl 864-378-7032.

Quilting Group-Friday's at 10:00 in the Zoom Room, Welcoming new members.

Shower Ministry-Thurs. from 2-6pm

PC3 Ministry-Monday 2-6pm

Meridian/Grace Market Place-Thurs. 2-4pm in the Bartram Rm a representative for assistance.

CDC (Chemical Dependency Counseling)-Mon. 8-12; Tues. 8-6, Wed. 8-6, Sat. 8-6.

New Opportunities

Ascend Music Ministry-contact Felecia Nelson for an interview/audition starting October 11th at pinkorchidjfn@aol.com.

Financial Report – Through November 30th Revenue YTD \$224,000.; Expenses YTD \$262,000.; Deficit YTD \$38,000.

The Brick Opportunity *to build a space rooted in legacy, community, and faith, one brick at a time. (#15)* For more details go to our website fpcpalatka.com.