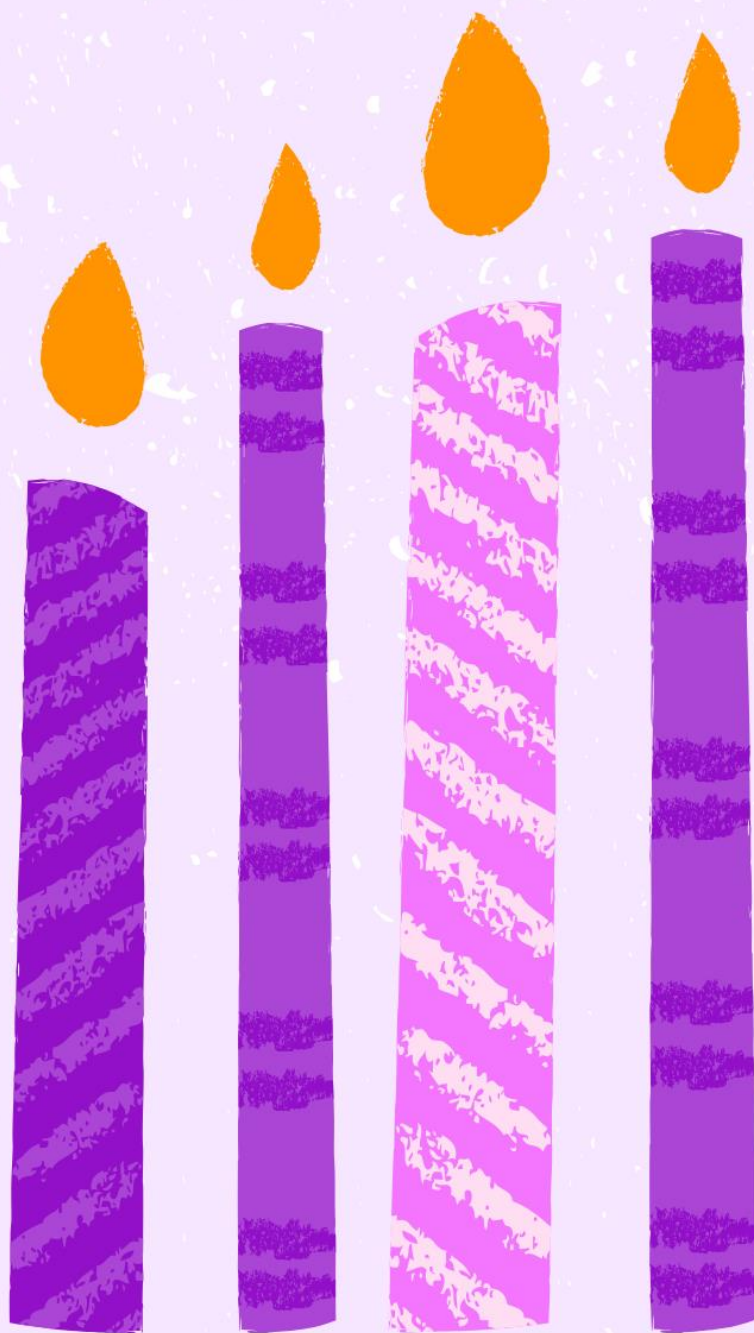


Welcome to the

Setauket Presbyterian Church

of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



JOY

Third Sunday of Advent

Order of Worship

December 14, 2025

Special Music Sunday

❖ *please rise in body or in spirit*; **unison prayers are in bold.**

GATHERING MUSIC *Badiniere* from *Suite No. 2 in B Minor* J.S. Bach, arr. Dave Prudon

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Traditional, arr. Phyllis Hopper

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE Choral Scholars

When we look around, we see shadows of sadness, people in need, people in fear, people who are isolated and feel on their own...

In the face of sorrow, in the face of loss, we light a candle of joy...

May the God who met the world at Jesus's birth meet us in all our circumstances.

May the light from this advent candle say to all that God's joy is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

For in Christ the light has come into the world,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Soon parched lands will blossom into life,

And burst into joyful song—very soon.

Soon every creature will have what it needs in abundance.

All peoples will shout for joy in freedom—very soon.

Soon happiness and joy will overwhelm us!

Grief and groaning will flee for good—very soon. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

❖ **HYMN no. 93** *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAAYER OF CONFESSIION

Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom and the hungry being filled with good things. But we confess that we may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty. Sometimes, we are the powerful.

Sometimes, we are the rich and privileged people. Forgive us, change us, for we desire to pay attention to those we have neglected or harmed. Help us to follow your way of life and truth.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem. There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow. Beloved, we are forgiven!

We are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE no. 551 *Lord, Have Mercy (2x)*

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.** Please share a sign of Christ’s peace with one another.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, by the power of your Spirit prepare the way in our hearts for the coming of your Word, so that we may see the glorious signs of your promise fulfilled; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

REFLECTION Rev. Candace Whitman

SPECIAL MUSIC

<i>Personent hodie</i>	Medieval Christmas Carol, arr. James M. Guthrie
<i>What Child is This?</i>	English Folk Song, arr. James M. Guthrie
<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	French Folk Song, arr. Stephen DeCesare
<i>The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns</i>	Traditional Chant, arr. Stephen DeCesare

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Welsh Hymn Tune, arr. K. L. Phillips

❖ DOXOLOGY no. 609

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God,
all creatures high and low: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF SELF AND SUBSTANCE

Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign, use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed, to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down, and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

❖ HYMN no. 104 *O Lord How Shall I Meet You*

❖ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE *Maoz Tsur Y’shuati (Rock of Ages)*
Jewish Traditional Hymn, translated by Marcus Jastrow & Gustave Gottheil

POSTLUDE *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* African-American Spiritual
arr. Stephen DeCesare

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
Special Music Sunday, 2025

Dear Friends,

I look forward to this Sunday every year, and I know that my fellow musicians sharing their talents with you today do as well. Advent is a special time in the church calendar. For four weeks our worship prepares us for Christmas, acknowledging our intense longing and boundless hope in the promises of God.

The great theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said, "A prison cell, in which one waits, hopes—and is completely dependent on the fact that the door of freedom has to be opened from the outside, is not a bad picture of Advent." In many ways, this description underlies the very essence of our faith. A tiny child – the long expected, and highly anticipated "dear desire of every nation" – will come to earth as the source of our salvation. During Advent, as we read the inspired Word of centuries past, our Faith reminds us that through Grace alone, Christ alone is truly the "hope of all the earth" and the "joy of every longing heart."

Together, let us sing:
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

Soli Deo Gloria. All for the Glory of God.

Wishing you a season of light, hope, and peace,
Noby

Many thanks to those who made this Special Music Sunday possible: God, our wonderful musicians, the SPC Choir, and our Director of Music, Noby Ishida.

MUSICIANS
Gergana Haralampieva & Rachel Lim, violins
Iliana Barcena, viola
Jonathan Kim, cello

SPC CHOIR
Sopranos
Rachel Carter-White
Marilena Castoro
Koji Ishida
Lauren Ishida
Sayuri Ishida
Kimberly Janson
William Janson
Wyatt Janson
Joan Kahnhauser
Robbie Metzger
Elizabeth Smith

SPC CHOIR (continued)
Altos
Ann Becherer
Christina Montalto
Arlene Rogers

Tenors
Bob Becherer
Jane Madden-Koch
Greg Senf
Andreas Weichselbaum

Basses
Brandon Castoro
Julian Hightower
Andrew Schofield

Portions of today’s worship service draw from the Call to Worship Journal.

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