Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prelude

The Call

But let righteous people rejoice. Let them celebrate in God’s presence. Let them overflow with joy. Sing to God. Make music to praise his name. Make a highway for him to ride through the deserts. The LORD is his name. Celebrate in his presence.

Thanks be to the Lord, who daily carries our burdens for us.
God is our salvation. Selah. Our God is the God of victories. The Almighty LORD is our escape from death.

Thank God, the Lord, the source of Israel, with the choirs.
You, kingdoms of the world, sing to God. Make music to praise the Lord. Selah

God, the God of Israel, is awe-inspiring in his holy place. He gives strength and power to his people. Thanks be to God!

Gathering Song

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You (vv. 1 & 4)
Gathering Prayer
God, who is the source of our strength, when we call, you listen and answer our prayers. Grant us peace in the midst of all the difficulties that are raging in our lives, strengthen our faith in the power you possess to calm our thoughts of anxiousness to those of contentment, knowing that as Paul says, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Let us be, continually, prayerful for those who are in need of our good deeds, as we approach the holidays, where there will be the sick and shut-in, the lonely, the hungry, the homeless, the disabled, the displaced immigrants, the unemployed, the abused, the mentally ill, and the children. God, repair our bodies, that we be your servants, joyfully, prepared and ready for the work.

Children’s Time with Amelia Lloyd

Scripture Reading       Philippians 4: 4-7   God's Word Translation (GW)
Always be joyful in the Lord! I’ll say it again: Be joyful!
Let everyone know how considerate you are. The Lord is near.
Never worry about anything. But in every situation let God know what you need in prayers and requests while giving thanks.
Then God’s peace, which goes beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your thoughts and emotions through Christ Jesus.

Music for Reflection

Message

Prayers of the People/Lord’s Prayer
Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kindom 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 kindom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song of Response       Bless the Lord O my Soul (10,000 Reasons)
                        Amelia Lloyd, vocalist

Thanksgiving to God

Breaths of God

Blessing and Commissioning

Sending Forth Song       We Praise You, O God (vv. 2 & 3)  Page 4

Postlude
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:16; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joyful, joyful, we adore you, God of glory, God of love;
2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,
3 You are giving and giving, ever blessing, ever blessed,
4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;

Hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.
Stars and angels sing around you, center of unbroken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Boundless love is reigning o'er us, reconciling race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the storms of doubt away;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
Loving Spirit, Father, Mother, all who love belong to you;
Ever singing, move we forward, faithful in the midst of strife,

Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, teach us what our praise should be.
Teach us how to love each other, by that love our joy renew.
Joyful music leads us onward in the triumph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.
Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824
Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846
We Praise You, O God

Julia C. Cory, 1902; alt.

1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers;
through life's storm and tempest our guide you have been.

3 With voices united our praises we offer,
and gladly our song of thanksgiving we raise.

We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
When perils o'er take us, you never will forsake us.

Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

and with your help, O God, in life's struggles we win.
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!
Kirkwood United Church of Christ
Advent and Christmas Activities for 2020

This Advent and Christmas, we’ll fill the world with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still “believe, even when” we feel discouraged, anxious, sad, exhausted... Let us walk with hope toward love, joy and light.

*All activities will be held on Zoom.*

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Nov 29</td>
<td>9:30 am Worship: Advent Candle of Hope “I believe in the sun: hope for tomorrow” with communion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Dec 2</td>
<td>9:00 pm Evening Prayer Service</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dec 6</td>
<td>9:30 am Worship: Advent Candle of Love “I believe in love: daring right relationship”</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>11:30 am Women’s Fellowship Lunch, Fun and Advent Devotional</td>
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<td>9:00 pm Evening Prayer Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dec 13</td>
<td>9:30 am Worship: Advent Candle of Joy Christmas play: “God is With Us Everywhere” Blessing of the Christmas gifts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>Dec 16</td>
<td>9:00 pm Evening Prayer Service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dec 20</td>
<td>9:30 am Worship: Advent Candle of Peace “I believe in the light: illuminating peace”</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>Dec 24</td>
<td>9:45 pm Gathering music</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:00 pm Candlelight Service of readings, prayer, beautiful music and communion “We believe, even now.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Dec 27</td>
<td>9:30 am Worship: “Believe this: the time has come.”</td>
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