

Order for the Worship of God

OPENING PRAYER

Highland Presbyterian Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2015

*In the quiet of meditation, know that when grace descends
the world falls silent before it.
Turn but your heart, and an angel moves.*

Caregiving God providing for our needs,
as you long to fill the hungry with food,
so also fill our imagination
with people and things
that are just and true,
excellent, noble, and worthy of praise,
that by dwelling on the beauty of goodness,
we may grow into it day by day
as students of Christ
in whose name we pray. Amen.

GATHERING

†HYMN

O Come, Let Us Adore Him

PRELUDE

Dr. Kit Loong Yee

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: JOY

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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Kelly

In the gospel of Luke, John the Baptist points to Jesus:

MOMENT FOR MISSION: CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

John Dye

As the people were filled with expectation,
questioning whether John might be the Messiah,

GATHERING SONG

I Love You, Lord
(sung twice)

see insert

John answered them by saying,
“I baptize you with water,
but one who is more powerful than I is coming . . .
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” (Luke

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Alan Cutter

We enter this place of worship in search of light to guide our way.
We seek to exchange the burden of sin for the garland of joy.

If we follow Jesus Christ,
we will get everything we hope for,
and more than we bargained for.

We come because we have seen the light afar off and desire to come closer.
**We come to join with others in walking in the light
so we may enjoy true human communion.**

We light our third candle – the candle of joy – to praise God,
whose Spirit comes to us
with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

We come that our light may shine and draw others to God’s light.
**In Christ, the light has come into the world,
the bright expression of God among us.**

**Living Christ,
give us hope that trusts in you,
peace that surrounds us,
and joy that fills our lives. Amen.**

†At this sign, you are invited to rise in body or in spirit.

Bold: all people respond

+CALL TO CONFESSION

+ PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of all love, we confess before you
 those places in our hearts where we have refused you entrance,
 those people we have refused to love,
 those habits we never get around to changing,
 the good things we have left undone.
 Come to us in the light of your love.
 Shine on those places we have hidden from you. Show us new ways to live.
 Sweep clean the rooms of our hearts, that Christ may find a home among us.
 These things we pray believing in the Savior who is to come. Amen.**

+ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

+PASSING THE PEACE

The hope, peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

BLESSING OF THE CHILDREN WHO RECEIVE THE GIFTS OF LITERACY

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 4:4-7

HYMN

Troubled Souls Go Free
 (Tune: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*, Hymn 38)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

THE BRIDEGROOM AND THE BEST MAN

RESPONSE

+HYMN

Prepare the Way

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH ~ ADVENT LITANY OF WAITING

We wait in grace for the coming of Jesus.

We wait in faith for the coming of Christ.

We wait for earthly things to pass away.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth.

We wait in patience for the coming of Jesus.

We wait in repentance for the coming of Christ.

We wait for what exists now to be dissolved.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth.

We wait in joy for the coming of Jesus.

We wait in gratitude for the coming of Christ.

We wait for what is evil to be destroyed.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth.

We wait, lowly of spirit, for the coming of Jesus.

We wait, hungry of heart, for the coming of Christ.

We wait for what is holy to be made incarnate.

We wait for a new heaven and a new earth.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER *(using ‘*

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

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see insert +DOXOLOGY *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

+PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Pastor Kelly

SENDING

+CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World (verses 1-2-3)

+CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

+RESPONSE

Joy to the World (verse 4)

HYMN +POSTLUDE

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