

A vertical rectangular image with a dark blue, textured background. In the upper left, a bright white star with four-pointed rays is visible. A thin vertical line of light extends downwards from the star. The bottom of the image features a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The words 'Hope', 'Peace', and 'Joy' are stacked vertically in the center-left area in a white serif font.

Hope
Peace
Joy

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Jackson, Tennessee

December 15, 2019

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30 AM

THE CHURCH GATHERS

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Lord God: There is no tongue that can utter all our joy and celebration. There are no words to state in full our love and adoration. Therefore, in prayer's soft silent sphere where we seem mute but God can hear, our lives attuned with grateful praise worship Thee, Lord, in all our ways. In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Fantasy on 'Oh, Come, Oh, Come Emmanuel* Lovelace

CHORAL INTROIT *Rejoice and Sing!* Page
Chancel Choir

CALL TO WORSHIP *Elder Catherine Carls*

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship
 of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: *And also with you.*

One: Come once more, with eager longing, to receive the promises of God.

ALL: *Out of the desert places of our lives we gather with joy and gladness.*

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in
 the Lord their God.

ALL: *Our God has promised that lonely places and deserts will be glad and
 blossom as the rose.*

One: The Lord has promised that the blind will be able to see, the deaf will hear, the lame
 will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

ALL: *Our God, who made heaven and earth and all that is in them, keeps faith forever.
 He sets the prisoners free and brings healing to those who seek him.*

One: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down and watches over strangers. He
 upholds the orphan and the widow.

ALL: *Our God executes justice for the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.*

One: Come once more, with eager longing, and celebrate the holy name of God.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE *Patrick and Callie Dollar, and John Patrick, Jr.*

RESPONSE *(all singing, refrain only Hymn: 88)*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

TO PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

****PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 105** *(Please stand at the introduction to the hymns)*

People Look East

BESANÇON

INVITATION TO CONFESSION AND LITANY OF CONFESSION

Rev. John White

One: Merciful God: If we conceal your love because our pursuit of other priorities prevents us from seeing and serving people in need:

ALL: *Merciful God, forgive us.*

One: If we conceal your compassion because of our prejudice and intolerance:

ALL: *Merciful God, forgive us.*

One: If we conceal your mercy because of hard and unforgiving attitudes:

ALL: *Merciful God, forgive us.*

One: If we conceal your truth through our lack of credible witness:

ALL: *Merciful God, forgive us.*

One: If we conceal your glory because of our reflection of our own self-centeredness:

ALL: *Forgive us, O God. Cleanse our lives of all shameful attitudes of mind and heart so that your transforming power is revealed in and through all we do and say and are. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. John White

One: Rejoice as we hear these transforming words: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God to whom we have been reconciled through Christ!"

ALL: *Thanks be to God, for by the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

#*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE 581

GLORIA PATRI

*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, amen.*

TO GIVE THANKS, PETITION AND INTERCESSION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Mary Abbott *Reaffirmation of Faith*

*(sing in unison) Blessed be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

The First Noel

arr. Dobrinski

Handbell Choir

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

(After the Time with Children, our young friends ages 4-2ND grade are invited to the Children's Church in the Education Building. An adult will escort the children. After church the children will be escorted to their appropriate Sunday School rooms. Grades 3-5 are invited to remain in the Sanctuary for worship.)

*HYMN: 83

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

STUTT GART

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER *(p. 35 in front of hymnal)*

TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Catherine Carls

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 35:1-7 (page 663)

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 11:2-11 (page 11)

One: This is the word of the Lord.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

"Is He the One?"

Rev. John H. White

TO RESPOND IN FAITH

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** (in unison) from *A Brief Statement of Faith* *Rev. John White*

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives, teaching by word and deed and blessing the children, healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted, eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners, and calling all to repent and believe the gospel. Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified, suffering the depths of human pain and giving his life for the sins of the world. God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, breaking the power of sin and evil, delivering us from death to life eternal.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Meditation on HYFRYDOL
Handbell Choir

arr. Tucker

*Doxology (Tune: 607)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder Catherine Carls

TO GO OUT TO SERVE

*HYMN OF DEDICATION: 134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

*BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION:

Come, Lord Jesus, Come
Chancel Choir

Page

*ORGAN POSTLUDE

Magnificat Fugue on the Second Tone Number Two

Pachelbel