

✚ **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:** "The Apostles' Creed" (*unison*)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

Go Out as God's People in the World

✚ **Closing Song #270** "Joy to the World"

✚ **BLESSING & CHARGE / VISION & MISSION** (*responsively*)

To walk in the light of God;

making JESUS known is FIRST at First!

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

✚ **POSTLUDE**

Following today's service please join us in the upstairs
hall for coffee & conversation.



If you are **visiting** today, we thank you for coming and hope you return soon.

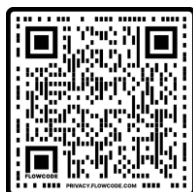
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December 17, 2023

FOR PASTORAL CARE, PLEASE CALL:

The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford at 412-877-9310

Happy 3rd week of Advent!



Today's Worship Leaders:

Musician: Marcia Brannon

Coordinator of Vocal Leaders: Kathy Wallace

Officer Assisting: Leslie Crawford

Advent Candles: GNC Mission & Wonder Time Leaders

Jean Johnson & Sally Kean

Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Janet Hufford

Assisted Listening Devices are available in the Sanctuary during Worship.

If you need instructions, please see the Greeter.

*(Those not wanting to be seen on the **video recording**, please sit under the balcony.)*

Hymnals: *green (Celebration) & red (The Hymnbook)*

Gathering of God's People

After the chimes, please be in quiet reverence & silence cell phones.

3 RINGS OF THE STEEPLE BELL & CHIMES

WELCOME by Leslie Crawford

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(See insert.)*

PRELUDE

CALL To WORSHIP with LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY:

We conclude the Advent season by lighting the candle of joy. Mary exclaims in Luke 1:46-47, "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Jesus, you are our joy and the bringer of joy in your birth as God incarnate.

✠ stand as able

✠ **Opening Song #90** "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

✠ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** based on Luke 11 *(unison):*

(Pause in silent confession.)

We confess that we have been proud in our inmost thoughts. Extend your mercy to us and grant your forgiveness, we pray, O Lord. Amen.

✠ **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:** *(responsively)*

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.

The old life has gone; a new life has begun.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.

Amen.

✠ **GLORIA PATRI / RESPONSE:** *(unison)* 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.

Proclamation of God's Word

✠ **CALL TO GOD'S WORD:** John 10:35 & Romans 4:3 *(unison)*
"Scripture cannot be set aside... What does Scripture say?"

✠ **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:** *(unison)*

SCRIPTURE: <i>Gospel</i>	Luke 1:39-45	N.T. pg. 1457
	6:20-26	N.T. pg. 1468

SERMON Takeaway: **"Leaped for Joy"**
by the Reverend Dr. Janet A. Hufford.

Response to God's Word

✠ **Song of Response #282** "O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful"

PRAYERS of JOYS & CONCERNS followed by **LORD'S PRAYER** *(unison)*

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 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SECONDS FOR STEWARDSHIP

(Receptacles for offerings are found at each exit.)

OFFERTORY

✠ **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

✠ **DOXOLOGY:** *(unison)* 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.