SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

DECEMBER 13, 2020 ~ 10:00 A.M.

MUSICAL PRELUDE "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" Pat Crosby Jim Charron, trumpet; Lee Mayfield, trombone WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Linda Pokrajac LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH CANDLES **MLEPC Family Members** Leader: In the last two weeks, we have lit the first candle of Advent, the candle of Peace, and the second candle, the candle of Hope. Today we light the third candle of Advent, the Joy candle, which witnesses to the joy of following Jesus. We travel during these days to the stable and the manger where the One who gives joy is born. Response: We remember that the Christmas angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people." When John the Baptist saw Jesus, John announced, "The friend who attends Leader: the bridegroom waits and listens for him and is full of joy when he hears the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is complete." Response: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again, rejoice! Leader: Response: Though we have not seen Him, we love Him; and even though we do not see Him now, we believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy. **OPENING PRAYER OPENING HYMN** Cvnthia Pratt

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord has come; Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

HYMN OF ASSURANCE

"How Great Our Joy!" Jim Charron, trumpet; Lee Mayfield, trombone

While by the sheep we watched at night, Glad tidings brought an angel bright.

[Refrain:]

How great our joy! Great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so He did say,

In Bethlehem a Child today. [Refrain]

He comes to make His blessings flow

Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found

Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace

There shall the Child lie in a stall, This Child who shall redeem us all. [Refrain]

This gift of God we'll cherish well, That ever joy our hearts shall fill. [Refrain]

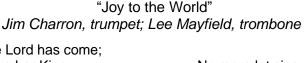
Pastor Linda Pokrajac

And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness

Cynthia Pratt

And wonders, wonders of His love.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground.



MT. LEBANON EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Isaiah 62:1-7 Luke 1: 46-55

SERMON

"The Gift of Joy"

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day, He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there, He shall come 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.

CLOSING SONG

"Christmas Medley"

Worship Team

[Intro] Joy, unspeakable; Joy, the overflowing well No tongue can tell. Joy, unspeakable Joy; it rises in my soul It never lets me go

You are the first; You go before You are the last, Lord; You're the encore Your name's in lights for all to see The starry host declare Your glory Glory in the highest, glory in the highest

Apart from You there is no god Light of the world; the bright and morning star Your name will shine for all to see You are the one; You are my glory Glory in the highest, glory in the highest

> And no one else could ever compare To You, Lord; all the earth together declare

[Chorus] 3 x's Glory in the highest, glory in the highest, glory in the highest To You, Lord; to You, Lord

> All the earth will sing Your praise The moon and stars, the sun and rain Every nation will proclaim That You are God, and You will reign, so Glory, glory hallelujah. Glory, glory to You, Lord Glory, glory hallelujah, hallelujah

[Ending] You say you want diamonds on a ring of gold You say you want your story to remain untold All the promises we make, from the cradle to the grave When all I want is You.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Gloria"

Patricia Crosby

Pastor Carolyn Poteet

(THE MUSIC PLAYED AND STREAMED AT OUR SERVICES ARE COVERED UNDER CCLI LICENSES #855230 AND #20137538.)