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MT. LEBANON EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

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**MUSICAL PRELUDE**

“Good Christian Men, Rejoice”  
*Jim Charron, trumpet; Lee Mayfield, trombone*

Pat Crosby

**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.”**

Leader: When John the Baptist saw Jesus, John announced, “The friend who attends 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.**

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always; I will say it again, rejoice!

**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**

“Joy to the World”  
*Jim Charron, trumpet; Lee Mayfield, trombone*

Cynthia Pratt

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.

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

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  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Pastor Linda Pokrajac

**HYMN OF ASSURANCE**

“How Great Our Joy!”  
*Jim Charron, trumpet; Lee Mayfield, trombone*

Cynthia Pratt

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

There shall be born, so He did say,  
In Bethlehem a Child today. [Refrain]

[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 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]

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

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

Pastor Carolyn Poteet

**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, 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, 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**

Pastor Carolyn Poteet

**POSTLUDE**

“Gloria”

Patricia Crosby