



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
December 14, 2025 10:30 a.m.
Third Sunday of Advent

THE CHURCH GATHERS IN WORSHIP

PRELUDE

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Phaedra Smith, Solo

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

† THE PEACE OF CHRIST

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

#92

While we are waiting, come; while we are waiting, come.
Refrain: Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel, while we are waiting, come.
With power and glory, come; with power and glory, come. (Refrain)
Come, Savior, quickly come; come, Savior, quickly come. (Refrain)

† CALL TO WORSHIP (from Luke 1:46b - 47, 49)

Leader: My soul magnifies the Lord.

People: **My spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

Leader: The Mighty One has done great things.

People: **Holy is God's name.**

All: **Let us worship God!**

† OPENING PRAYER

Holy God, we praise you for the "good news of great joy" that the angels brought to the shepherds and that you bring to us today. As we worship you this morning, make room in our hearts to magnify that joy, so that it may bear fruit as we follow Christ Jesus with gratitude and hope. We pray this in his name. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (inspired by Luke 1, Isa. 35)

Marilyn, Kinloch, Kelsee, Kaitlyn and Raylan McCollum Family

Voice A: Today we light the third candle: the candle of joy. With Mary, we rejoice that God lifts up the lowly and fills the hungry with good things.

Voice B: With Isaiah, we watch while the desert is covered with blossoms, and the earth shouts with joy.

Voice C: With Mary, we claim that God treasures the little and the least, and we offer our own servant hearts, for God is making everything new.

Voice D: In the light of the candles of hope, peace and joy, we wait with gladness to celebrate the birth of the Light of the world.

All: **Come, Lord Jesus! Come, Light of the world!**

† HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

#611

† CALL TO CONFESSION (from Isa. 35:1, 4)

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us.
Trusting in God’s promises, let us confess our sin.

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, always with us, always coming, we confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We forget how to hope for your miracles. We grumble that there is too much to do, look around to see who isn’t helping, and then tire ourselves out. We are distracted by negative voices and fooled by the promises of advertising. Forgive us, we pray. Ground us in moments of simple wonder and obedient faith. Inspire us with the joy of Mary, the steadiness of Joseph, and the exuberance of the shepherds. Call us to quiet moments like this one, where our hearts may rest in simple gladness.

† SILENT PRAYER

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON (from Titus 2:11)

Leader The grace of God has appeared, giving salvation to all. I declare to you in
: the name of Jesus Christ that our sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

† GLORIA PATRI

#581

FAITH SHARING WITH CHILDREN

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (from Is. 35:1-2, 40:8)

Loving God, we know that the grass withers and the flower fades, but your word stands forever. As we hear your word, pour out the power of your Spirit, so that the joy of salvation may blossom eternally in our lives, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35:1-10

O. T. Page 663

Luke 1:46b-55

N. T. p. 57, Children’s Bible p. 188

SERMON

“Joy Can’t Wait”

Rev. Sandra Hedrick

† HYMN

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

#100

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

“Apostles’ Creed”

Hymnal Page 35

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Offering Music

"Come, Emmanuel"

arr. Barrett

† **Doxology and Prayer of Dedication**

#606

THE CHURCH MEETS CHRIST IN THE WORLD

† **HYMN**

"Joy to the World"

#134

† **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

"Comfort, Comfort Now My People"

Genevan Psalter, 1551

† **All those who are able, please stand.**

Worship Assistant: Jack Higson

**Ushers: Wayne and Cindy Ezell, Dave and Kathy Morrison and
John and Joanne Rose**

Deacon Greeter: Paula McCormick

Last Sunday's Attendance: 58

Rev. Sandra Hedrick, Pastor, pastorsandra@oppresby.com

Orange Park Presbyterian Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

CCLI #2196224 and #2196221

OneLicense #A-741799

COMMUNITY CORNER

WELCOME AND MEMBERSHIP: Welcome to worship at Orange Park Presbyterian Church! There are Connect Cards in the pews for visitor information, communications, and prayer requests (once completed, place in the offering plate). If you would like to talk with Pastor Sandra about becoming a church member, please note that on the card, and she will reach out to answer your questions.

BULLETIN COVER: The bulletin image is a mosaic in the Pfarrkirche Kaisermühlen, a church in Vienna constructed at the end of the 19th century in the style of a Romanesque basilica. The mosaic of Mary is framed by images of the disciples. Over her head is a mosaic of two angels holding a crown.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH AND NURSERY: Children's Church is for ages 4 through 13 and takes place right after the children's message. Our nursery is open upon request for the younger ones.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: A congregational meeting will be held after worship today for the purposes of (1) hearing the final report of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and to elect the church's next full-time installed pastor and (2) electing ruling elders to serve in terms beginning January 1.

CHRISTMAS EVE: There will be two services on December 24: Quiet Communion at 4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and our Candlelight Service at 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

ADVENT STUDY: It is not too late to be a part of our all-church Advent Bible study, "Calling All Angels" (Rev. Erin Wathen). We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings through December 21. Enjoy breakfast snacks at 9 a.m., followed by discussion at 9:15.

LOVE OFFERING FOR CHURCH STAFF: Help us say "thank you" with a year-end love gift to our office, music and maintenance staff members and our preschool director (Pam, Lisa, Sonja, Vernon, Tom, and Amanda). We will need your contribution (designated as such) no later than Sunday, December 14 (or drop it by the office Monday morning), so that we can bless our staff with these gifts before Christmas. Your generosity is appreciated!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: We will receive this annual offering on December 21. It supports Presbyterian church workers and their families in time of deep need and funds educational opportunities at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

YEAR END GIVING: We are grateful for the generosity of our members and other donors this year. If you did not receive a statement of giving as of October 31 - or you have questions - please contact Fran Higson. Contributions for 2025 must be postmarked or received by December 31. We will provide a year-end statement by January 31 for your tax purposes.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM: On December 17 at 9:30 a.m., you are invited to hear the Christmas story told in song through the voices of children.

WOMEN'S RETREAT: A few spots are still open for our 2026 Women's Retreat on St. Simons Island, where we will explore "Our Sacred Story in God's Divine Plan" along with relaxation, fellowship and laughter. The retreat will be held on March 13-15 at Epworth by the Sea. The fee is \$300 for a double accommodation (\$50 deposit). Registration forms are available in the narthex, and church office. Questions? Contact Cindy Ezell.

Ruling Elders in Nomination

Pat Carlile

Pat and her husband (now passed in 2018) came to live in Fleming Island in 1998. She began attending this church in 2018 and has served on the session (2020-2023), sings in the choir, and leads as a co-chair of the Property Committee. After working as an RN for years, she is now enjoying a busy retirement. She has been a member and officer of two community dog clubs (Paws and Paws Agility Club & Greater Orange Park Dog Club). Her hobby now is her three golden retrievers; she competes with them in AKC agility trials, keeping her young and active.

Josh Longmire

Josh has been a member of OPPC since 2011 and is dad to Rees and Ann Marie, who attend Episcopal School of Jacksonville. He is currently filling a one-year vacancy on the session and serves on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and the Administration and Finance Committee. He is a Jacksonville native and grew up in Riverside Baptist Church. Josh works as a Director and Senior Portfolio Manager for Bank of America Private Bank and has lived in Eagle Harbor with his daughters since 2013.

Deborah (Deb) Mueller

Deb has been a member of this church since 1995. She was married to Dick Mueller for 28 years and has three children and two grandchildren. She was a trust officer for Bank of America for 16 years and then managed the Director of the Clay County Teen Court for 22 years. In the church she has served many roles - as a deacon, ruling elder, on the Worship Committee, and as a volunteer in the church office on Wednesday mornings.

Joanne Rose

Joanne is a lifelong resident of Clay County who attended Baptist churches from an early age and became baptized into the faith. She became a Presbyterian when she married her husband, John Rose. John and Joanne have a 19-year-old daughter, Ashlyn, who attends Florida State University. Joanne has worked in clerical, accounting and business positions with the same company for over 50 years. She just finished a three-year term on the session and is our church treasurer, and a member of the Worship Committee and church choir.