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Elfinwild Presbyterian Church
Order of Worship
Third Sunday in Advent
December 17, 2017

*You are invited to use Scripture for reflection
or the following prayer as you prepare your hearts for worship.*

“I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.” Isaiah 61:10

PRELUDE “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” Anna Laura Page
Handbell Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME

BRINGING THE LIGHT “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”
**O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer, our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH 8:30 – The Szymoniak Family

Scripture reading Luke 2:8-14
Lighting of the Candle of Joy

COLLECT (UNISON PRAYER)

Eternal God, as the angel brought news of a great joy to the shepherds, we too have news of joy to share. Renew in us the joy of salvation in Jesus Christ. Help us to be bearers of this good news to all people, so that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

* HYMN OF PRAISE No. 12 “People, Look East”

CALL TO CONFESSION Isaiah 65:2-3

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, You are the real Joy-giver! We don’t always look to You for our Joy. Too often we seek comfort from other people, places and things. In this season we can mistakenly believe that material gifts bring happiness. Sometimes we turn to food for our comfort and have too much. Lately we have been made aware of how some look to power over others for satisfying the longing of meaning and purpose. The brokenness of our world can be measured by our pursuit of worldly comforts and pleasures, positions and power. There is no hope or salvation in these. Forgive us our sin and turn our hearts back toward Jesus who is the One, and only One, who can provide the Joy of salvation that satisfies all we long for. We ask for Your mercy and grace to lead us in new ways. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: People of God: Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose coming we announce in this season, is our righteousness. In Christ, we are made right with God.
Receive and believe the Good News of the Gospel!
All: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!!**

*RESPONSE **Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Savior of the Nations, Come” David Bridges
Chancel Choir

*DOXOLOGY
**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

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.**

ANTHEM “Almost There” Heather Sorenson
Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 1:6-8, 19-28
(page 992 in the pew Bible)

SERMON “The Joy of Receiving God’s Gift” Dr. Dirk Lesnett

*HYMN OF COMMITMENT No. 56 (v.1-4) “The First Nowell”

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

POSTLUDE “Angels, From the Realms of Glory” Anna Laura Page
Handbell Choir

Special thanks to our liturgist this morning-Rick Dayton

The Elder of the Week is Steve Heere