

SERVICE *of* MUSIC
*AND HEAVEN
AND NATURE
SING!*

December 17, 2023

*Madison Advanced Choirs
Lindsey Patterson, Director*

*FPC Chancel Choir
Helen Redding, Director*

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING
SERVICE OF MUSIC
DECEMBER 17, 2023

Presented by the First Presbyterian Church Choir and Madison Academic Advanced Choirs
Directed by Helen Redding and Lindsey Patterson

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Worship the Lord with gladness, and enter God's presence with songs of joy. O God, the angels of heaven proclaim your glory without ceasing. Help us as we serve you in your house, that in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, we may sing to you with our whole heart; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. Held

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. John White

One: We count it in mere hours now. Soon the first pains of labour will be felt.

ALL: Soon the Light will shine in the darkness, soon the baby will be born.

One: Soon God will once again break into our lives,

ALL: coming in a way that is expected yet unusual, challenging our expectations and calling us to see life differently.

One: God of birth, God of light, in this time of song and prayer and silence,

ALL: reawaken in us the awe of Christmas.

One: As we hear again the story,

ALL: remind us that we are called to respond to you in unexpected ways.

One: And when we leave this place,

ALL: may we be willing to sing praises for a young woman who said YES, and the birth that we prepare to celebrate.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Jamie, Marlie, Graylynn + Ford Richardson

RESPONSE *(all singing, refrain only from Hymn: 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel)*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

**OFFERING
OFFERTORY**

Rev. John White
arr. Page

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Rev. John White

DISMISSAL TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*(All children are welcome to remain in church during the entire service; however, Extended Care is provided in the Education Building for any who desire it. **CRY ROOM:** For parents of young children, the Chapel (in rear of sanctuary near restroom) is equipped with a speaker to hear the worship service. Instructions are provided. Our young friends ages 4-2ND grade are invited to Children's Church in the Education Building. **An adult will escort the children.** After worship, parents may pick their children up in the Education Building downstairs in the nursery hallway.*



AND HEAVEN AND NATURE SING

The Sussex Carol

Clausen

Mary, Did You Know?

arr. Emerson

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

Lantz

How Far Is It to Bethlehem?

Macey Berry, soprano

Wilberg

Star of Glory

John White, bass

Althouse

Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child

Delaney Uselton, alto

arr. Wright

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Gracie Chattin, Abby Groom, Delany Uselton

Wesley

Star of Bethlehem

arr. Christopher

Silent Night

Gruber / Mohr

Joy to the World

Forrest



SENDING

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. John White

POSTLUDE

God Rest You Merry
Dr. Terry McRoberts

arr. Held