

*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.*

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**His Name is Wonderful**

Soloist: Lynn Tieken

**\*DOXOLOGY #607**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore; Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*Eternal God, as we wait for the fulfillment of your reign,  
use these gifts and the gifts of our lives to bring justice to those who are oppressed,  
to set free those who are in prison, to lift up those who are bowed down,  
and to uphold those who are vulnerable. Amen.*

— Sending —

Love Has Come

— Congregational Meeting —

**\*HYMN #110**

**\*BLESSING AND CHARGE**

May the God of peace make you holy and the power of the Spirit sustain you  
until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Alleluia!** Prepare the way of the Lord! **Amen.**

**\*Congregational Response** O Holy Night (refrain)

*Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise God's holy name.*

*Christ is the Lord! O praise his name forever!*

*His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! (repeat)*

**POSTLUDE**

**Go and Tell John What You See and Hear**

*You may sit after the light passes you in the aisle.*



**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

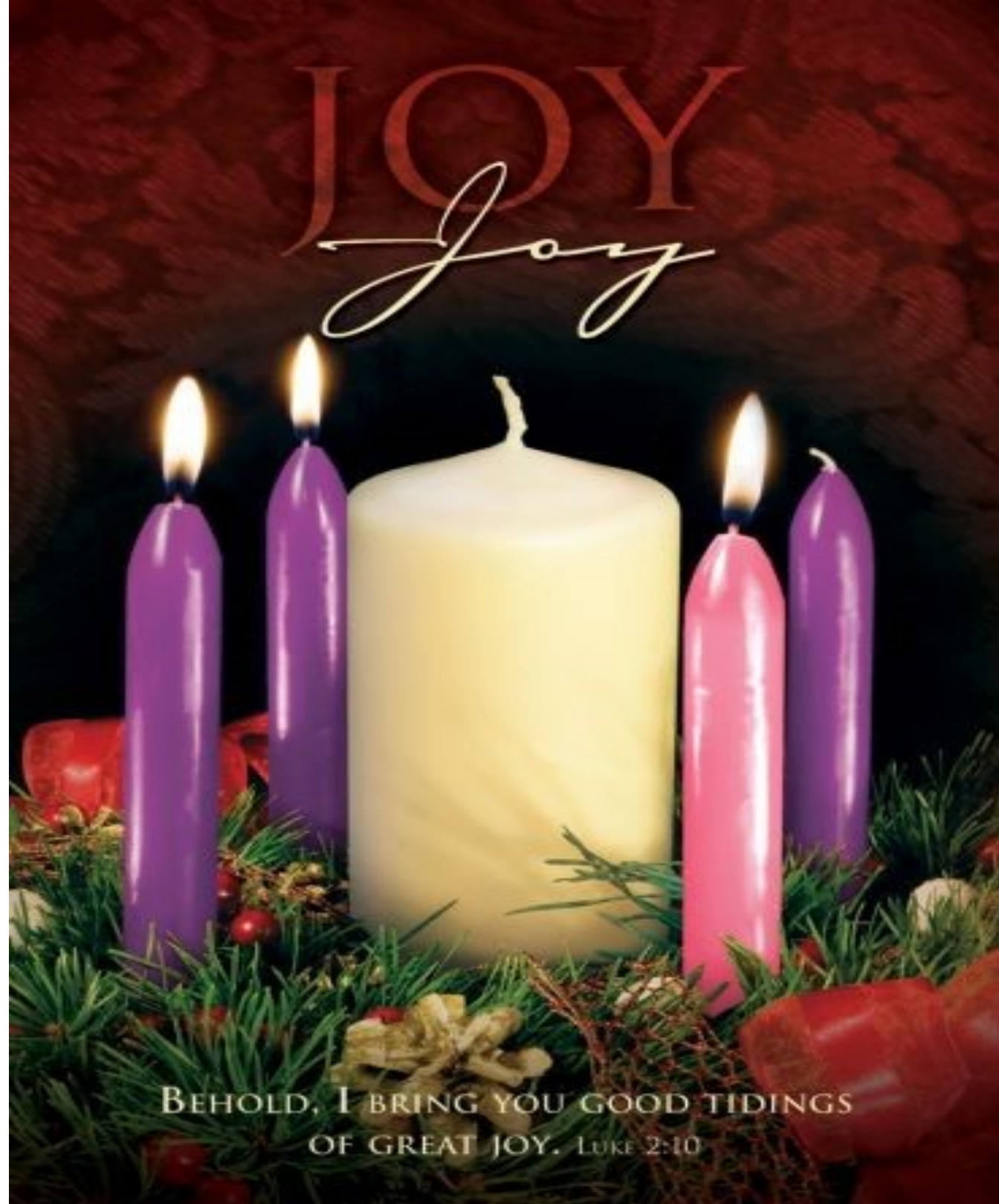
Henderson, Texas



*Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences*



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(\* Please rise in body or in spirit  
*Bold Italic Letters* indicate congregational response

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
HENDERSON, TX**

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

— *Gathering* —  
**Mary, Did You Know?**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**\*CANDLE LIGHTING**

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,” and the church says, “Be faithful.”

As we light our third Advent candle, ***We pray for hope, peace, and joy.***

Come now, O child of Mary. ***Come now, O Prince of Joy.***

**\*CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN #314 Christ, Be Our Light (Chorus)**

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

**\*OPENING SENTENCES**

Into the dry and desolate places of our lives, God brings salvation.

***The desert rejoices and blossoms, the wilderness teems with life.***

Sorrow and sighing will flee:

***let us come into God’s presence with singing!***

**\*HYMN #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

**CONFESSION**

Trusting that God will never turn away from us, let us tell the truth about our lives.

***Magnificent God, it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom  
and the hungry being filled with good things.***

***We may not want the powerful to be brought down or the rich to be sent away empty.***

***We know that sometimes, we are the powerful. Sometimes, we are the rich.***

***Sometimes we are the ones with privilege,  
ignoring and harming those you would lift up.***

***Forgive us, humble us, and refocus us, that we may follow your way of life and truth.***

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

There is nothing and no one that is too far gone for God to redeem.

There is no land too parched that God cannot make streams of living water flow.

Beloved, we are forgiven! ***Alleluia! Thanks be to God!***

**\*GLORIA #113 (Chorus)**

***Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

— *Word* —

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 1:46-55

Bible p. 53-54, LG p. 69-70

A voice is crying in the wilderness: Listen to the word of the Lord.

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING**

James 5:7-10

Bible p. 217, LG p. 281

Heaven and earth will pass away but the word of the Lord stands forever. ***Thanks be to God.***

**GOSPEL**

Matthew 11:2-11

Bible p. 10-11, LG p. 13-14

Hear God’s wisdom for us.

The wisdom of God for the people of God. ***Thanks be to God.***

**SERMON**

**Take The Leap**

Rev. Michele Goff

**ASCRPTION OF PRAISE**

— *Response* —

**\*HYMN #92**

**While We Are Waiting Come**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.19

***Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.***

***His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.***

***He was the fulfillment of God’s promise to Israel,***

***the beginning of the new creation, and the pioneer of the new humanity.***

***He gave history its meaning and direction and called the church to be his servant***

***for the reconciliation of the world.***

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered here, in the house of the Lord, let us pray for the coming of Christ’s realm.

Come quickly, Lord; ***our hope is in you.***

... We pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Bring peace, O God, to the world you have made:

the peace that passes understanding and the promise of your new creation;

through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is coming in glory to reign. **Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,***

***thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as in heaven.***