

Bible Reading for December 13

Psalm 126 ²Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” ³The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Luke 1:46b-55 ^{46b}“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Discussion Questions

•*God’s vision for joy is one that we can participate in no matter what is going on. In Psalm 126, God’s people shout for joy when God’s promise to them is fulfilled. This week we will hear Mary’s song about that same kind of joy. When was the last time you were able to rejoice? •Have you found joy when things were not going well?*

As you ponder these things in preparation for Sunday, I would love to hear what God is saying to you. Call me in the church office at 256-353-6941 or email me at miriam@centralunitedmethodist.com.



Love GOD



Love OTHERS



SERVE the World



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Musical Gift

Christmas Carol Medley

Hughes

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Wreath

Lynn & Carol Ozier

***O come, thou root of Jesse’s tree, an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall, all peoples on thy mercy call.***

God of Peace, you created the universe and all that is in it. You created all things and called them good. God of Peace, you wove into life a beautiful diversity from your infinite palette of creativity. All the creatures that walk or swim, crawl or fly sing praises to you.

We, God’s people, affirm the creation of all things in peace and love, saying with the psalmist: “God’s salvation is very close to those who honor God so that God’s glory can live in our land. Faithful love and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed.” *(Psalm 85:9-10, CEB)*

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this candle of Peace to remind us that the God of Creation calls us home to live in peace with all that we meet.

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

Prayers of the People

Rev. Miriam Smith

**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 trespasses
 as we forgive those who trespass against us.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom and the power
 and the glory for ever. Amen.**

Anthem

Every Valley

John Purifoy

Bible Reading — Mark 1:1-8

Rev. Miriam Smith

—[Prayer]

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
 that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
 we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,’” John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

Message — “More Peace”

Rev. Miriam Smith

Closing Hymn #218

Sears

1. **It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 “Peace on the earth, good will to men,
 from heaven’s all gracious King.”
 The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.**
3. **And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
 who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
 look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.
 O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!**
4. **For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
 when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.**

Benediction

Musical Gift

Angels We Have Heard on High

Broughton

Organist: Virginia Paul

† *Every Valley* by John Purifoy © 2018 Hal Leonard LLC.

CCLI # 2306531

Welcome!

We are so happy to be here together! Here are a few guidelines for how we can worship safely together:

Please stay seated until the ushers come to guide you out of the Sanctuary. If you would like to make your offering while you are here today, there is an offering plate by the door. You may also continue to give using our website or by mailing a check.

In order to help keep everyone safe, please take your bulletins and any trash with you when you leave.

This service will be livestreamed on YouTube and a recording will be posted on social media for watching at a later time.