

Pilgrim United Church of Christ
130 Broad Blvd.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221
December 13, 2020 - Worship Service

WELCOME

INSTRUMENTAL PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **Brass Quartet**

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the midst of cold days and long nights, God offers joy.
As we miss holiday traditions that are not possible this year, God still offers joy.
Though we wonder what the future holds and how long this pandemic will last,
God continues to offer joy.
Even as we face illness and grief, separation and uncertainty, God's joy abides.

PRAYER

L: O God, come, for the night is already half-gone. We've been waiting for so much
for so long, so that now even when the frost has come and nothing blooms,
we dream of tender stems birthing bright wonder.
Come, O God, to dream with us. Teach us to dream of what is possible, and
how the world could change if we could just show love aright.
The night is already half-gone, O God. So come. Come to make all the tears
we have shed this year blossom into shouts of joy.
Come, O God. Come and dream with us. Dream through us.
Come, O God. Come.

POEM FOR REFLECTION *I Dream a World* **Melissa Shedlock**
by Langston Hughes

SPECIAL MUSIC *The Wizards In Winter* **Guest Pianist: Lily Laszlo**
by Trans-Siberian Orchestra

WE LIGHT THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE - JOY

Our thanks to John, Meghan, Simon & Grace Howell for lighting today's advent candle.

RESPONSE *One Candle Is Lit* **Pianist: Mr. Benjamin Knight**
Vocalist: Ms. Kim Brenstuhl

SONG *Angels, We Have Heard on High*

SCRIPTURE **Isaiah 61:1 - 4, 8 - 11** **Common English Bible**

¹The Lord God's spirit is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me
to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim release for captives,
and liberation for prisoners,
²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor
and a day of vindication for our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³to provide for Zion's mourners,
to give them a crown in place of ashes,
oil of joy in place of mourning,
a mantle of praise in place of discouragement.

They will be called Oaks of Righteousness,
planted by the Lord to glorify himself.

⁴They will rebuild the ancient ruins;
they will restore formerly deserted places;
they will renew ruined cities,
places deserted in generations past.

⁸I, the Lord, love justice;
I hate robbery and dishonesty.
I will faithfully give them their wage,
and make with them an enduring covenant.

⁹Their offspring will be known among the nations,
and their descendants among the peoples.

All who see them will recognize
that they are a people blessed by the Lord.

¹⁰I surely rejoice in the Lord;
my heart is joyful because of my God,
because he has clothed me with clothes of victory,
wrapped me in a robe of righteousness
like a bridegroom in a priestly crown,
and like a bride adorned in jewelry.

¹¹As the earth puts out its growth,
and as a garden grows its seeds,
so the Lord God will grow righteousness and praise before all the nations.

TODAY'S MESSAGE

Restore Your JOY!

Rev. Glen Shedlock

SONG

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

On This Day the Earth Shall Sing