

One: We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.

All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.

One: We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: Remember your mercy, O Lord, and help us,

People: according to the promise of your steadfast love.

Leader: Let all generations see your blessing,

People: for your name is holy and your mercy is great.

Leader: Show the strength of your hand,

People: and lift the burdens of the poor.

Leader: Work wonders for the humble,

People: and scatter the plans of the proud.

Leader: Look with favor upon the lowly,

People: and cast down tyrants from their thrones.

Leader: Fill the hungry with good things,

People: and empty the hands of the greedy.

Leader: Then we will sing out with joy and glorify you forever;

People: through Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, saying "Our Father..."

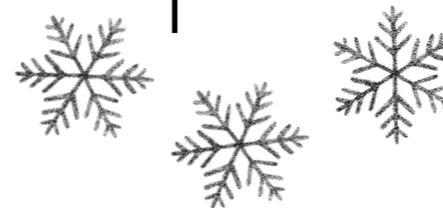
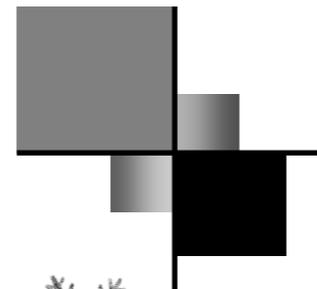
(We conclude with The Lord's Prayer found on p. 35 in the hymnal).

* **Hymn** "Angels We Have Heard on High" No. 113

* **Benediction**

Go out practicing gratitude, that you might be the joyful people who wait and watch with anticipation for God's love to be born anew in our world and in our hearts. Amen.

* **Benediction Response**



Highlawn

Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER 15, 2019
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate.

Give in to it.

There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be.

We are not wise, and not very often kind.

And much can never be redeemed. Still life has some possibility left.

Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happened better than all the riches or power in the world.

It could be anything,

but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins.

Anyway, that's often the case.

Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty.

Joy is not made to be a crumb.

~ Mary Oliver ~



ADDRESS: 2814 COLLIS AVENUE, HUNTINGTON, WV
25702

PHONE: 304.522.1676 EMAIL: OFFICE@HIGHLAWNPC.ORG

A People of *Loving Hearts* and *Helping Hands*

** Those who are able, please stand for the parts of worship indicated with an asterisk*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Advent Candle Lighting

HPC Youth

Call to Worship

Leader: O sing a new song!

People: O sing to God, all the earth!

Leader: Let the heavens be glad,

People: let the earth rejoice,

Leader: let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

People: let the field exult, and everything in it!

Leader: Then shall all the trees of the wood sing for joy before God

People: for God comes to judge the earth.

Leader: God will judge the world with righteousness

People: and the peoples with truth.

* Hymn

"Joy to the World"

No. 134

Invitation to Confession

Let the desert rejoice, and let the dry land be glad, for God has come to save us.
Let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

God of majesty and glory, we are thirsty for your grace. You made a way for us in the wilderness, and still, in our foolishness, we go astray. We hide our eyes from your presence. We do not listen to your word. We are lifeless when we ought to dance and speechless when we ought to sing.

Forgive us, O Lord. Speak peace to our fearful hearts, strengthen our weak hands, and make firm our feeble knees as we seek to follow in your holy way.

(Please observe a moment of silent, personal confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Now return to the Lord with joy and gladness. Sing a song of redemption! Let sorrow and sighing be no more. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God.

* Passing of the Peace

Let's celebrate forgiveness and new possibilities by greeting each other with words of peace and welcome. *(Please stand and share God's peace as you feel led).*

Children's Message

Anthem

"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

arr. Jay Rouse

Scripture

Psalm 65:11-13; Isaiah 35: 5-7; Luke 2: 8-11

Sermon

"Joy Is Not Made to Be a Crumb"

Rev. Dr. Dana Sutton

Hymn

"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"

No. 107

The Offering of God's People and Presentation of Pledges

* Offertory Response

"Lord of All Good"

No. 711 v. 1

* Prayer of Dedication

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.

All: You have entrusted us with gifts— time, talent, energy, money— and asked us to use them to build your kingdom. With thanks and praise we respond to your call.