

# Parma Greece United Church of Christ

R. Kurt Traugott, Pastor

Sarah Staebell, Organist

Roger Leighton, Moderator

*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are in life's journey,  
you are welcome at Parma Greece UCC!"*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

December 13, 2015

Third Sunday of Advent

**The Prelude**

**Ring of The Bell**

**Word of Greeting and Announcements**

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns**

**Musical Meditation**

**Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Rejoice with song, all people, for God's singing fills  
the heavens and the earth.

**People: Let it be known in all the nations,  
God is our strength and our salvation.**

Liturgist: God gathers us together for joy, to renew us in love.  
Let us rejoice with God in glad song.

**People: We will sing praise and exalt God's name.  
With joyous shouts, we will tell of God's glorious deeds.**

**\*The Hymn** "Sing With Joy, You Advent People!" See Insert

**\*The Prayer of Invocation - Unison**

**We gather, O God, in this worship space mindful of Your  
presence. We are here to rejoice as we wait to see Your glory.  
Help us proclaim the joy You promise In this hour of worship  
we ask that you bless us through the inspiration of Your Holy  
Spirit and through the stories of Christ's ministry among us. Amen.**

Liturgist: O Lord, open our lips.`

**People: And our mouths shall show forth Your praise.**

**\*An Act of Praise**

"Advent Gloria"

**Glory be to God the Father, glory be to God the Son.**

**Glory be to God the Spirit, Great Jehovah Three in One.**

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

**Lighting the Advent Candle - Joy**

Liturgist: Joy is the celebration  
given by God through the light of the world.

**People: Joy is the celebration  
given by God at the birth of the Christ child.**

Liturgist: Joy is the celebration when the angels sang  
"Glory to God in the highest."

**People: Let us dance and sing and shout for joy.  
Christ is coming again.**

Lighting the Third Candle

Liturgist: Let us pray:

**All: Source of light shine in our lives and in Your world  
with Your life-giving joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**The Hymn**

**The Candle of Joy**

**The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
For God is at work to do a new thing.  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.**

**A Time With Young Christians**

**Child of God, your loving parent, learn to know whose child you are.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.**

## **The Collect - Unison**

**Almighty and merciful God, each year You make us glad as we look forward to the birthday of Your Son. Encourage us to receive Him with joy as our redeemer, and faithfully follow His way. For he lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## **The Reading of God's Word**

Liturgist: Listen now for the word of God

Zephaniah 3:14-20      Page 877

Philippians 4:4-7      Page 198

Liturgist: For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
For the Word of God within us.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Liturgist: The Holy Gospel of our Lord according to St. Luke

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Luke 3:7-18      Page 60

Liturgist: The Gospel of our Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

**The Homily**      *"It's Our Choice"*

**The Hymn**      "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

#43

**The Call to Prayer**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**Silent Prayers of the People**

**Pastoral Prayer**

## **The Prayer Of Our Savior**

**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 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.**

**The Prayer Response** "Silent Prayers" Tune: Stille Nacht

**"Silent prayers, holy prayers, lifting up all our cares.  
Send Thy comfort so tender and mild,  
Lord, enfold us as thine own child.  
Grant us heavenly peace. Grant us heavenly peace."**

## **The Giving of Our Gifts and Offerings**

### **The Offertory**

#### **\*The Doxology**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above Ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

#### **\*The Prayer of Dedication - Unison**

**With praise and hope, we offer our gifts to You, Gentle God,  
praying that they would enable others to draw all they need  
from the deep wells of Your healing, of Your grace, of Your  
peace. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

**\*The Hymn** "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates" #117

**\*The Commission and Benediction**

Liturgist: Let the hope, peace and joy of this Advent season fill your life in the busy days ahead. Love and care for one another in the name of Christ.

The peace of God which passes all understanding bless you, the joy of Jesus Christ fill every part of you, and the fire of the Holy Spirit enthuse and inspire you as we wait with anticipation the day of the Lord's coming.

**People: Amen.**

**\*The Benediction Response** "Like Shepherds of Old" Tune: The First Noel

**Like shepherds of old keeping watch through the night,  
We are watching and waiting for heavenly light.  
Going forth in peace, proclaiming God's love,  
Bring tidings of great joy from heaven above!  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Jesus shall come -- Emmanuel!"**

**\*The Postlude**

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*Candle Lighting Readings produce by Presbyterian World Service and Development. Written by The Rev. Mary Whitson.*

*The Candle of Hope written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette-2015*