

## Announcements and Upcoming Events

It's not too late to place your order! Christmas Poinsettias are \$10. If you would like to purchase one in memory of or in honor of someone please see or send a note to Barbara Matlack, office@titusvillechurch.org.

Sunday, December 17, 6 p.m. Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 24, 10 a.m. (TIME CHANGE) Morning Worship and 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship. Both services combined with Grace Presbyterian.

## Gloria patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be  
— world without end.  
Amen, amen.

## Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

## Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!

## Psalm 1

Blessed is the one who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.

But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.

Not so the wicked! They are like chaff that the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgement, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

## Spiritual Food for Thought

It seems that nothing much happens in the dead of winter or in the dark night of the soul. It is at such times that we might discover with a great 'OH', that it is Jesus who is praying within us, Jesus who understands, and that the song of His love for the Father can always be heard within us, even in the dark depths of winter.

--Linda Richardson

### Session:

Class of 2017  
Barbara Matlack  
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018  
Patti Manz  
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019  
Mark Niederer  
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

### Deacons:

Class of 2017  
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018  
Gail Butterfoss  
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019  
Chris Manz, Moderator

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Barbara Matlack

Accompanist: Emily Atzert

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*

Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

December 17, 2017



All praise and glory to God! Welcome to the third week of Advent. The pink candle we light today represents joy, a special gift from the Lord. In Christ, we are invited into a life of joy. Joy is found in the presence of God. That is why Scripture teaches that even if we are suffering, we can still know joy--Christ endured suffering for the joy set before him (Hebrews

12:2). Today's readings teach us about the presence of the Lord. Moses meets "I Am Who I Am" in the burning bush. Paul encourages the believers that our future is eternity with the Lord.

May the same Lord who met Moses and led Paul, meet and lead you! Let us worship God!



## Call to Worship

Lighting of Advent Candle

Each week in Advent, the Choir will call us to worship.

*Light One Candle for joy  
One bright candle for joy  
He brings joy to every heart.  
He comes. He comes*

This will be followed by Reading of Scripture and the lighting of Candle.

## Prayer of Confession (Psalm 51:8-12)

Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

...Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...



## Order of Liturgy

Prelude

\*Call to Worship (page 1)

\*Opening Hymns / Prayer (page 1)

Confession (page 1)

—call, prayer, assurance

\*Gloria patri

Scripture (page 1)

Message

\*Hymn of Response (page 1)

\*Apostles Creed

\*New City Catechism (page 2)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering

\*Doxology

\*Sending Hymn (page 1)

Benediction

Choral Benediction: "In The Lord I'll be Ever Thankful"

\*Please stand if able

## Scripture

Psalm 1 (page 383)

Exodus 3 (page 41)

I Thessalonians 4 (page 836)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Songs for Today

Opening Hymns

#104 "O Worship the King"

#249 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Hymn of Response

#589 "Here I Am Lord"

Sending Hymn

#261 "Away in a Manger"



## Notes on Morning Scripture

### Exodus

Vs 1 Jethro, meaning “excellence” seems to be a title, not a name (Like Pharaoh). Reuel, “a friend of God” appears to be the name of Moses’ father in law.

Vs 1 Horeb appears three times in Exodus. Here, where Moses brings water out of the rock (17:6), and where Israel repents (33:6). Later in Scripture, Elijah flees to this mountain (I Kings 19:8). Scholars feel that Horeb and Sinai are of close proximity, if not the same mountain

Vs 8 “a land flowing with milk and honey”. This is the first of 24 uses of the phrase in Scripture.

Vs 12 “you” is plural, referring to Israel

Vs 22 comes to fruition in 12:36

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### Web Link

<https://godasagardener.com/taq/rubus-sanctus/> was the burning bush a blackberry plant?

<https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/i-am-who-i-am> sermon on names, and the Name of God

<https://www.crossroadsinitiative.com/media/articles/advent-the-reason-for-the-season/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xeZOnW2v6k> Once in Royal David’s City

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-ways-jesus-second-coming-changes-us-now/> one out of every thirteen verses in the New Testament refer to Christ’s coming. Very good read.

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### New City Catechism

*A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>*

*Part 3: Spirit, Restoration, Growing in Grace*

**Question 49: *Where is Christ now?***

**Answer:** Christ rose bodily from the grave on the third day after his death and is seated at the right hand of the Father, ruling his kingdom and interceding for us, until he returns to judge and renew the whole world.

To learn more about Question 49, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/#49>

## Editorial Scriptures on JOY

Let the trees of the forest sing, let them sing for joy before the Lord, for he comes to judge the earth. I Chronicles 16:33

Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. Nehemiah 8:10,12

At the dedication of the wall of Jerusalem, the Levites were sought out from where they lived and were brought to Jerusalem to celebrate joyfully the dedication with songs of thanksgiving and with the music of cymbals, harps and lyres. Nehemiah 12:27

as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor. Esther 9:22 (there are seven mentions of the word in this short book)

But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you. Psalm 5:11

Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy. Psalm 33:1,3

The whole earth is filled with awe at your wonders; where morning dawns, where evening fades, you call forth songs of joy. Psalm 65:8

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy. Psalm 96:12

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Matthew 13:44

So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Matthew 28:8

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. John 15:11

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy Philippians 1:4

Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy I Peter 1:8

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### Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life

(offered in 12/17 worship by the congregation)

## Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

Is joy found just in the big moments of life?

Pensive in Pennington

Dear Pensive,

Hopefully not, or else the idolatry of the human heart will make us seek bigger and bigger moments, and the whole thing will prove unsustainable.

Yes, there is joy in the big moments of life, There is also joy in the mundane, ordinary moments.

The Lord God rules over it all: the big, wondrous events and the daily routine. “I am who I am” remains so each day, every season, year after year, millennia after millennia.

Isaiah the prophet mentions joy over thirty times in his prophecies. How is joy described in his writings?

First, we notice that many of the joy passages are spoken to the people, not the individual. We are deeply shaped by the individualism of the modern world, but the ancient idea that joy is found in community is important to remember.

The prophet says there is joy in remembering our salvation comes from God, remembering the God of our salvation (12:3). This truth is attainable while walking along the towpath, driving down the road, or sipping your cup of coffee.

Joy comes when we sing, and when we sing together (12:6, 52:9). I can testify to this, as I have thoroughly enjoyed singing in the congregation’s choir.

Joy comes from the promise of resurrection (26:19). God is the God of the living. Even death, when faced with eyes of faith, sees the God who will raise the dead. This is our joy.

Joy comes to the desert and the parched land. Joy comes to the places where there is seemingly little life and a lack of resources. Nonetheless, joy is even there (35:1-2).

Joy partners with thanksgiving (51:3). Just being thankful will give birth to joy.

Joy is experienced within the wonder of the creation (55:12). The creation joins us in our joy, as the trees clap their hands and the birds of the fields sing to their Creator.

Joy is found when the people go to the House of Prayer (56:7). This is also true for you and I, that praying in special space leads us to joy.

On the path, there is joy:

But only the redeemed will walk there,  
and those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

(35:9-10)