

✠ ENTRANCE ✠

For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.
(Matthew 18:20, NRSV)

Welcome and Announcements

Ricky Tipps

*Hymn "Angels We Have Heard on High"

184 BH

*Invocation

Ricky Tipps

Surely GOD is my salvation; I will trust and be not afraid,
For the LORD is my strength and my might;
GOD has become my salvation.
Watch and wait for CHRIST'S coming!
We light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of GOD.

We light this candle in hope. *Light the first candle.* Ricky Tipps

We light this candle for peace. *Light the second candle.* Ricky Tipps

We light this candle in joy. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.
And you will say in that day: Rejoice in the LORD always; again I say, Rejoice!
Light the third (pink, if used) candle. Valerie Tipps

*Call to Worship (Responsively) Pastor

Let all who love GOD rejoice.
Let all who thirst for justice draw water from the well of GOD's salvation.
Let all who long for CHRIST sing for joy.
Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living GOD.
Let all who seek the SPIRIT shout aloud.
Let all who yearn for mercy fall on their knees before the throne of GOD of grace.

*Opening Prayer Ricky Tipps

✠ PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD ✠

Gospel Reading Luke 3:7-18; Valerie Tipps

Hymn "Gentle Mary, Laid Her Child" # 212 BH

Concerns and Prayers/Lord's Prayer Pastor

Special Music David Cost

Sermon Philippians 4:4-7; Pastor

"Rejoice, the LORD is Near."

✠ RESPONSE TO THE WORD ✠

*Hymn "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come" # 181 BH

*Prayer of Confession (Unison) Pastor

Oh, GOD of compassion and grace, we yearn to embody the joy of YOUR salvation, but we are easily distracted by the demands of the season. We long to taste the wellspring of YOUR mercy, but we are caught up in the frenzy of the holidays. Be our quiet center, be our secret heart, that we may live lives of love wherever we go. In YOUR holy name, we pray. Amen.

*Words of Assurance & Encouragement

The ONE who loves us with a fierce tenderness takes away our guilt and leads us in the ways of life.
The ONE who guides us with justice and mercy restores our fortunes and leads us home.
Praise and thanks be to GOD!

*Affirmation of Faith Pastor

*Doxology "Glory Be to the Father"

The Celebration of the Holy Communion Pastor

✠ SENDING FORTH ✠

*Closing Hymn "The First Noel" # 180 BH

If you would like to make a profession of faith, join the church, or simply pray at the altar, you may come during the closing hymn. We welcome you to our fellowship!

*Charge & Benediction Pastor

Go with the joy of the LORD on your lips. Go with the peace of CHRIST in your hearts. Go with the strength of the HOLY SPIRIT in every step you take. Go in joy with GOD. Amen.

Postlude Phyllis Turner

In the Life of our STONEGATE Community

Sunday, December 12, 2021; Congregational Meeting

ELECTION OF TWO NEW ELDERS FOR THREE YEAR TERMS

**Thursday, December 16, 2021;
10:00 a.m. – LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

**Friday, December 17, 2021;
9:00 a.m. – FRIDAY'S BREAKFAST**

**Sunday, December 19, 2021;
Fourth Sunday of Advent,
10:45 a.m. – MUSIC & WORSHIP**

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021;
6:30 p.m. – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

**Sunday, December 26, 2021;
10:45 a.m. – MUSIC & WORSHIP**

**Sunday, January 2, 2022;
10:45 a.m. – MUSIC & WORSHIP**

You Are All Invited

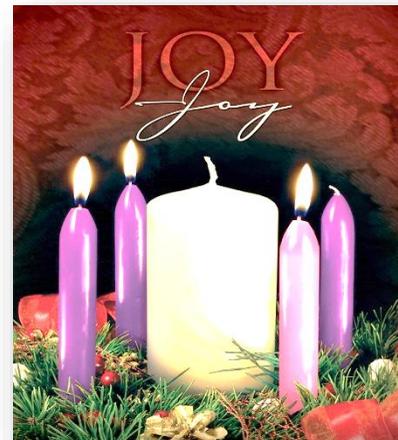
The Pastor's weekly messages are published on our website at www.stonegatecpc.org

✿ For Our Guests ✿

We are so thrilled to have you worship with us today. We truly hope you are encouraged and inspired to grow closer to GOD as we worship the true and living GOD together.



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✿ WORSHIP LEADERS ✿

Rev. Dr. Mark Marian Sontowski, *Pastor*
Phyllis Turner, *Pianist*
David Piatt & Pam Brown, *Worship Leaders*
David Cost, *Special Music*
Ricky Tipps, *Welcome and Announcements*

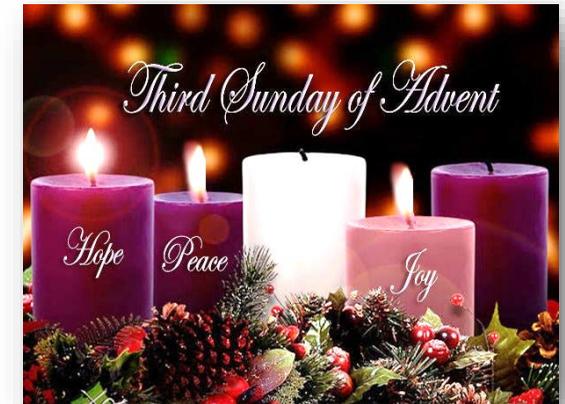
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THEME IDEAS

GOD's salvation is at hand. Philippians captures the mood of the day: "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I will say, Rejoice" (4:4^{NRSV}). Isaiah and Zephaniah invite us to sing aloud and shout for joy. Through GOD, the warrior receives victory while the lame and outcast no longer live in shame. Three of today's lections celebrate the joy of our salvation - but the Gospel lesson reminds us that salvation demands more than our joy. Beyond calling sinners to repent, John the Baptist warns of the wrath to come for those who hear the Good News and reject it. Justice is the order of the day. Salvation entails judgment, and we need to be ready.



STONEGATE CHURCH

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent, DECEMBER 12, 2021



Experience the Love of CHRIST in Community!