

When we are tempted to depend on others for happiness,
draw us back to you, for you are the Light that shines for us always.
Help us to shine that light from within us through our own Unabashed Joy.
Let us make your blessings known in our hearts this day.
Let us make your blessings known in our church this day.
Let us make your blessings known in the world this day... in the name of Joy. Amen.

***Hymn #82**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

WE CONFESS

Call to Confession

In Jesus Christ, God seeks to smooth those places made rough by sin. With humility and hope, let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Great God, as we prepare to behold the birth of Jesus again, we are mindful of how we have failed to receive the fullness of that gift. The story points us to your glory, yet we struggle to join in the song of praise and thanksgiving. We are distracted and confused, so focused on things of little significance we overlook the good news of great joy that you have prepared.

Tell us again that the Savior is born. Tell us again that we are forgiven. Tell us again that our lives can be abundant in faith, hope and love because of what you have given us in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The angel tells Joseph that the child forming in Mary's womb is to be named Jesus. "Call him Jesus," the angel says, "For he will save the people from their sins." From his birth through his resurrection, from age to age, Jesus is about salvation. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

***Gloria #583**

Gloria, gloria

GLORIA (Taizé)

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Time with Young Disciples

Patti Gruver

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

May the peace of Christ be with you! **May you be filled with unabashed joy!**

WE LISTEN

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, illumine these words by your Spirit that we might hear what you would have us hear and be who you would us be, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Pg. 578

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle

The Magnificat

Pam Root, Cantor

The Motet Choir

Epistle Lesson

James 5:7-10

Pg. 982

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:2-11

Pg. 792

Luke 1:46-55

Pg. 832

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Living with Unabashed Joy

Rev. Payne Warner

***Affirmation of Faith (from the Confession of 1967)**

**Out of Israel, God in due time raised up Jesus.
His faith and obedience were the response of the perfect child of God.
He was the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel,
the beginning of the new creation,
and the pioneer of the new humanity.
He gave history its meaning and direction
and called the church to be his servant for the reconciliation of the world.**

WE DEDICATE

Call for the Offering

With gratitude for God's faithfulness and with thanksgiving for all that we have received, let us bring our gifts to God.

Offertory Anthem

In the Bleak Midwinter
The Motet Choir

arr. by Larry Harris

***Response of Thanksgiving** *God Whose Giving Knows No Ending* BEACH SPRING
*God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you, offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.*

***Prayer of Dedication**

O God, with faith and hope, we offer these gifts. Use them, even as you use us, to accomplish your purposes in Jesus Christ, our coming Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

***Hymn #93**

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

TRURO

***Benediction**

Organ Postlude

Fanfare on TRURO

**WE SCATTER TO CONTINUE OUR WORSHIP
IN SERVING OTHERS**

A warm welcome is extended to all who worship today.
May the gift of worship we offer honor God and serve as a blessing to you.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Payne Warner

Margie Patterson

The Deacons

THE MUSIC TODAY

Prof. Larry Harris

Pam Root

The Motet Choir

ALSO SERVING TODAY

Ushers: John Einfalt and Alex Esseniya

Facilities Staff: David Phibbs

ELDERS

Daniel Ayana

John Einfalt

Sandy Benson

Karen Cooper

Miranda D'Amico

Elsie Dursi

Margie Patterson

DEACONS

Darrell McClendon

Becky Mallin

Wilma Miller

Elizabeth Ayana

Sean Barron

Julie Miller

Michael Shepherd

WORSHIP NOTES

Our liturgies today are from John Wurster for the *Presbyterian Outlook* and Marcia McFee's Worship Design Studios.