

MOUNT GRETNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
Sunday, December 17, 2023  
Third Sunday of Advent: Joy

\* \* \* ORDER OF WORSHIP \* \* \*

WELCOME & PARISH NOTES

PRELUDE (From Isaiah 55:10)

INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN\* #203 UMH  
*"Hail to the Lord's Anointed"*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH\*

Today is the third Sunday of Advent - the Sunday of Joy.

Our joy is in God and in his son Jesus Christ. Like peace, joy is a gift from God. It overtakes us and fills us when we remember what God has done and what he has promised to do.

We light this candle today to remind us that Christ came, and is coming, so that all people might have a rich and abundant life. We thank God for the hope he gives us, for the peace he bestows, and for the joy he pours into our hearts.

*The Reader(s) Light 2 purple candles and the pink candle*

RESPONSE/INVOCATION

**O GOD OF JOY, EMMANUEL —OUR SPIRITS SING WITH JOY  
AS WE COME IN WORSHIP TO YOU. IN THE SEASON OF  
WAITING AND WATCHING MAY YOUR HOLY SPIRIT LEAD US  
THROUGH THE PARCHED DESERTS OF OUR LIVES AND  
INTO THE GREAT JOY OF YOUR GOOD NEWS. SHINE  
BRIGHTLY YOUR LIGHT OF HOPE, PEACE, AND JOY INTO  
OUR HEARTS TO DISPEL THE DARKNESS OF SIN AND  
SADNESS AND GUIDE US TO YOUR PERFECT LOVE.**

SONG RESPONSE\* INSERT  
*"A Candle Is Burning" (vs.3)*

BAPTISM AND RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS+  
New Members

Pg.33  
Jayme Owens  
Dan Owens

Baptism

Jonas Neil Owens

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY\* #95 UMH

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION\*

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 98  
Pg. 875

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:15-20  
Pg. 1560

SERMON *Joy for the World*

HYMN\* #246 UMH  
*"Joy to the World"*

PASTORAL PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN\* #249 UMH  
*"There's a Song in the Air"*

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING\*

SONG RESPONSE\* #204 UMH  
*"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"*

POSTLUDE

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(\*)= Please stand if able  
(+)= 10:00 AM Service Only  
(UMH)= United Methodist Hymnal

*The pink insert to your bulletin is there for you to share any joys or concerns you may have for our prayer time this morning. Please hand the slip to an usher as the offering is received and they will bring your request to the pastor to be shared and added to our prayer chain. If you are a visitor with us and would like to share any information, please use the other side of the insert.*

### **Greeter & Usher 10:00 AM**

Weismantel Family

### **+++++ ANNOUNCEMENTS +++++**

Dec 18 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Advent Bible Study	6:30 PM
Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Saturday	Children's Practice	10 AM
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Children's Program	10 AM
Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday	Candle Lighting Services	7 & 11 PM

### **Flowers**

This week the flowers are presented in memory of Bill Nolte from Marilyn.

### **THANK-YOU**

We continue to say thank you for the generosity of all who contributed to the reduction of the elevator indebtedness. Of the \$34,000 indebtedness, we have raised \$31,000. Only \$3,000 remains on the debt. Thanks again!

### **Prison Ministry**

During Advent, we are collecting for the Prison Ministry. There is a gift bag in the foyer for donations. If you write a check, please make it to the church and note on it, "Prison Ministry."

Pastor Mike will be on vacation Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> – January 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **December 24**

There is NO 8:30 service on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>. Please come and enjoy the children's program at 10 AM. The Candlelight services will be at 7 & 11. Please plan to attend one of them.

# **Mount Gretna United Methodist Church**

*"A church for all seasons and all people"*



## **Our Mission is ...**

- to know Christ and make him known.
- to help people become—and grow as—followers of Christ.
- to relieve suffering, in our community and beyond, through our members' ministries.

Ministers: All Members

Pastor: Michael Remel

Pastor in Prison Ministry: Marilyn Nolte

Lay Leader: Dave Garver

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