



***Ebensburg Presbyterian  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Christmas  
January 2, 2022***

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EbensburgPresbyterianChurch>

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## GATHERING

TOLLING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER: *(responsively)*

(Adapted from "Advent in Plain Sight"—Jill J. Duffield)

God of grace,

you bring us through the darkest valleys and the most dangerous of wilderness places of our lives. When we get to a place of rest, we cannot help but rejoice and give you thanks for your redemption and love for us. Our hearts are stirred, and our spirits moved to show you our gratitude in tangible ways. We want to offer you not only our gold, but our entire selves as living offerings in your temple and on the table of grace. We come together this morning to praise you, worship you and revel in the recognition that you heard our cries for help, attentively listened to our prayers for renewed relationship and saved us through your grace. Now, as we receive this new year, Lord, receive our gifts of worship, bless and use our voices for the service in the tent of meeting, in our communities, and the building of your kingdom on earth. **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsively)*

CTW. 551—2021-22

Praise the Lord, O you, people.

**We joyfully proclaim, Christ is here!**

The God of all creation, fills us  
with the breath of the Spirit.

The Lord, the giver of life,  
has come to dwell among us.  
and we've come to worship the Lord.

\*HYMN #464 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

\*CALL TO CONFESSION CTW. 551—2021-22

Who is worthy to stand before God?

None but Christ alone.

The Son of God came in the flesh of a human body  
to live among us.

It is Christ who redeems us,  
gathering our tears and our fears,

redeeming each and every one.  
With this confidence let us confess  
our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(in unison)*

CTW. 551—2021-22

**Gather us,  
your children who run and hide,  
ashamed, afraid, apathetic.  
We trade your goodness for ashes.  
We trade your peace for control.  
We trade your promise for certainty.  
Gather us to you  
and return us to your abundant mercy;  
may it flow over us,  
renewing our weary souls. Amen.**

\*ASSURANCE FORGIVENESS: *(responsively)*

CTW. 551— 2021-22

The light of all life and the breath of all creation claims you,  
calling you “good” from the very beginning, very good.  
Friends, believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

GLORIA PATRI

\*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST: *(responsively)*

The peace of Christ Jesus be with you all.

**And also with you.**

*(Please share the peace of Christ with those around you.)*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: *(in unison)*

CTW. 551—2021-22

**O God,  
through your mighty acts we receive grace upon grace. From your fullness, feed us with your  
life-giving Word, that our lives, like bread, may feed a hungry world. Amen.**

#### SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7–14 Pg. 641

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3–14 Pg. 949

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: “More Precious than Gold”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.27) CTW. 551—2021-22

**The one sufficient revelation of God  
is Jesus Christ,  
the Word of God incarnate,  
to whom the Holy Spirit  
bears unique and authoritative witness  
through the Holy Scriptures,  
which are received and obeyed  
as the word of God written.**

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE: *(responsively)*

CTW. 551—2021-22

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
let us pray for the life of the world,  
saying: O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . .  
May we live this day as your beloved children,  
rejoicing that we have been adopted by your grace  
and given every spiritual blessing in you.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . .  
Bless our sisters and brothers throughout the earth.  
May we all live at peace with our neighbors,  
receiving from your hand all that we need.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . .  
Let your Word made flesh live among us, full of grace.  
Bring light to all who cannot raise their eyes to the future.  
Bring life to all who are weighed down and weary.  
O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . .

Lead them beside quiet streams and along smooth paths,  
that their mourning may be replaced with laughter  
and their tears with songs of joy.

O Christ, our light, **hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, hope of the world,  
help us to bear witness to your light  
so that all may believe and have life in you;  
in your holy name we pray in unison saying,

**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 de-liver us from evil. For thine is the  
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**HYMN # 411 "Arise, Your Light Is Come!"**

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

\*Please stand if you are able

**Psalm 147:12-20**

<sup>12</sup> Extol the Lord, Jerusalem,  
praise your God, Zion.

<sup>13</sup> He strengthens the bars of your gates  
and blesses your people within you.

<sup>14</sup> He grants peace to your borders  
and satisfies you with the finest of wheat.

<sup>15</sup> He sends his command to the earth;  
his word runs swiftly.

<sup>16</sup> He spreads the snow like wool  
and scatters the frost like ashes.

<sup>17</sup> He hurls down his hail like pebbles.  
Who can withstand his icy blast?

<sup>18</sup> He sends his word and melts them;  
he stirs up his breezes, and the waters flow.

<sup>19</sup> He has revealed his word to Jacob,  
his laws and decrees to Israel.

<sup>20</sup> He has done this for no other nation;  
they do not know his laws.

Praise the Lord.

**PRAYER LIST**

We are starting a new prayer list beginning January, 2022. If you have any names you would like added to the Prayer List, please call the church office at 472-6920 or place the names in the Offering Baskets near each of the front entrances. Thank you.

Father Pat Kirsch  
Gloria P.  
Chris Wolfe

# Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

464

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7 D

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
Adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867); alt.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;  
2. All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heaven re - flect Thy rays,  
3. Mor-tals, join the hap-py cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore Thee, Open-ing to the sun a - bove.  
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
Love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, Join - ing all in heav-en's plan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness; Drive the gloom of doubt a - way;  
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flower-y mea-dow, flash - ing sea,  
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.  
Chant - ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in Thee.  
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life.

# Arise, Your Light Is Come!

411

FESTAL SONG SM

Ruth Duck, 1974

William H. Walter, 1894

1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
 2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
 3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,  
 4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!

Show forth the glo - ry of your God, Which shines on you to - day.  
 Pro - claim the cap-tives' lib - er - ty, Good ti - dings to the poor.  
 Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones And com - fort those who mourn.  
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.