

A wooden slice, likely a piece of a log, is cut into a circular shape and hangs from a string. The wood grain is clearly visible, showing concentric rings. In the center of the slice, a five-pointed star has been cut out, with the points extending towards the edges. The slice is surrounded by green pine needles, which are slightly out of focus. The background is dark, making the wood and greenery stand out.

December 11, 2022, 10:30 a.m.  
Third Sunday of Advent

Sorrow and  
mourning will  
disappear, and  
they will be filled  
with joy and  
gladness.

— Isaiah 35:10b

# Order of Worship

(\*Please rise in body or in spirit.)

PRELUDE “Greensleeves” (Purvis) Henry Repp

GREETING Rev. Todd Lattig

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE — “Joy”

Readers: Debbie Seebeck, Kathleen Meredith

Responsive Hymn: “From God on High”

Sung following the lighting:

The choir will sing it through,

then the congregation will

repeat it.

**Joy came down from God on high,**

**As the star shone in the sky.**

**Joy came down on Christmas morn**

**In the form of a baby born.**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Kathleen Meredith

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to praise.

**Loving One, strengthen us and steady us.**

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to pray.

**Living One, say to the fearful parts of us, “Here I am.”**

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to sing.

**Everlasting One, open our hearts, quench our thirst, and let us blossom.**

**ALL: God, as we attend to you, fill us with joy. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” UMH 89

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Kathleen Meredith

**Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kingdom more fully here with all we have and all we are. Amen.**

CHOIR ANTHEM “Prophets Knew” (Larson) Chancel Choir

COMMUNITY PRAYER Rev. Lattig

CHORAL RESPONSE TO PRAYER Chancel Choir

KIDS ROCK CHILDREN’S SERMON Rev. Lattig

SCRIPTURE READING Kathleen Meredith

## Isaiah 35:1-10

**35** Even the wilderness and desert will be glad in those days.

The wasteland will rejoice and blossom with spring crocuses.

<sup>2</sup> Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy!

The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon.

There the LORD will display his glory,  
the splendor of our God.

<sup>3</sup> With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands,  
and encourage those who have weak knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those with fearful hearts,  
“Be strong, and do not fear,  
for your God is coming to destroy your enemies.  
He is coming to save you.”

<sup>5</sup> And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind  
and unplug the ears of the deaf.

<sup>6</sup> The lame will leap like a deer,  
and those who cannot speak will sing for joy!  
Springs will gush forth in the wilderness,  
and streams will water the wasteland.

<sup>7</sup> The parched ground will become a pool,  
and springs of water will satisfy the thirsty land.  
Marsh grass and reeds and rushes will flourish  
where desert jackals once lived.

<sup>8</sup> And a great road will go through that once deserted land.  
It will be named the Highway of Holiness.

Evil-minded people will never travel on it.  
It will be only for those who walk in God’s ways;  
fools will never walk there.

<sup>9</sup> Lions will not lurk along its course,  
nor any other ferocious beasts.  
There will be no other dangers.

Only the redeemed will walk on it.

<sup>10</sup> Those who have been ransomed by the LORD will return.  
They will enter Jerusalem singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy.

Sorrow and mourning will disappear,  
and they will be filled with joy and gladness.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God for this Word.**

ANTHEM “Lo! He Comes An Infant Stranger” (Mold) Chancel Choir

SERMON IMPOSSIBLE: “Joy Made Possible” Rev. Lattig

OFFERTORY “Behold a Rose” (Brahms) Henry Repp

You may leave your offering in the plate in the narthex or scan one of the QR codes on the back of this bulletin to make your offering electronically.

\*DOXOLOGY UMH 95

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison) Kathleen Meredith

**God, we know you love a cheerful giver, so it is with the absolute joy of this Advent season that we offer our gifts back to you. Bless them and multiply them to extend our reach far and beyond our church and community, to serve your beloved children in all the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN	“Joy to the World”	UMH 246
*BENEDICTION		Rev. Lattig
POSTLUDE	“Noel Parisienne” (Quef)	Henry Repp

## **Christmas Services 2022**

<b>Wednesday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Blue Christmas Service</b>
<b>Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols</b>
<b>Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Combined Christmas Service</b>

### **Today's Worship Leaders**

Pastor	Rev. Todd Lattig
Liturgist	Kathleen Meredith
Organist/Music Director	Henry Repp
Advent Candle Lighting/Readers	Debbie Seebeck/Kathleen Meredith
Greeter	Evelyn Cornwell
Camera Operator	Jen Phlegar
Soundboard Operator	Jay Morrison

Tithe.ly



PayPal



First United Methodist Church of Newton  
111 Ryerson Avenue  
Newton, NJ 07860  
973-383-4450  
newtonumc07860@gmail.com