Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR DECEMBER 13, 2020
3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Gathering Words *Based on Psalm 126* **Janelle and Jim Collier**

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
Our mouth was filled with laughter
And our tongue with shouts of joy.

The whole world could hear the news:
The Lord has done great things for us.

Friends, as we gather for worship,
We encounter God present in our midst,
loving us, restoring us to new life.

May we recognize that gift, and may we sow joy.
Let us worship Holy God.

Candle Lighting Liturgy **The Candle of Joy** **Janelle and Jim Collier**

I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.
I dream of laughter that is contagious.
I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.
I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.
I dream of homemade Halloween costumes and homemade family recipes.
I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.
I dream of every little thing that brings joy; and I know it comes from God.

So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder
that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

Light candle.

God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows and is contagious.
So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.
May we dance.
May we laugh.
May we hold onto the people we love.
May we sow joy in a hurting world, and may it be an act of holy resistance. Amen.

Opening Hymn Those Who Dream The Many

Prayer of Illumination **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Luke 1:46b-55 **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

46 "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is God's name.

50 The Lord's mercy is for those who fear God from generation to generation.
51 God has shown strength with God's arm;
The Lord has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;
53 The Lord has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

54 God has helped God's servant Israel, in remembrance of God's mercy,
55 according to the promise God made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Sermon Those Who Dream: Sow Joy **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 100 My Soul Cries Out with A Joyful Shout STAR OF COUNTY DOWN

1 My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,
And my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.

2 Though I am small, my God, my all,
You work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past,
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to fight,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

3 From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more,

For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain

4 Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Prayer of the People **Janelle and Jim Collier**

…We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Closing Hymn No. 548 May God Support You All Your Days DICKINSON COLLEGE

Benediction **Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Note: The words of the Candle Lighting Liturgy were adapted from *The Sanctified Art*.