

# First Reading Zephaniah 3:14-20

<sup>14</sup> Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.

<sup>16</sup> On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion;  
do not let your hands grow weak.

<sup>17</sup> The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

<sup>18</sup> as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

<sup>19</sup> I will deal with all your oppressors  
at that time.

And I will save the lame  
and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.

<sup>20</sup> At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

# Psalm - Isaiah 12:2-6

<sup>2</sup> Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup> **With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup> And you will say in that day:

Give thanks to the LORD,  
call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the nations;  
proclaim that his name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup> **Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;  
let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup> Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

# Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-7

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

# The Gospel - Luke 3:7-18

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup> Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup> He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## **CALENDAR**

TODAY                    10:00 Sunday School  
                              11:00 Confirmation  
WEDNESDAY            7:00 Bible Study



**NEW PRAYER REQUEST:** Shonna Ash friend of Sylvia Brackbill, Tom Brosenitsch brother of Tim Brosenitsch recovering from an accident, Cynthia sister of Bev Brosenitsch diagnosed with breast cancer, Jenny, Judy Hart, Adrienne Haegg.

[The complete prayer list is in the December newsletter.]

**ATTENDANCE AND OFFERING LAST SUNDAY:** 50 - \$1633.00

### **FOOD CUPBOARD – DECEMBER**

We will be collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly.

### **THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

A sign up sheet is in the narthex for your family to volunteer in the lighting of the Advent wreath.

### **A CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CHOIRS**

Invites you to join them as they celebrate the season of giving.

Sunday, December 16 – 7:00 PM

St. Peter's Reformed Church

Benefits: A Circle of Friends Choirs

### **2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Please pick up your 2019 offering envelopes in the back of the church. Also if possible, please pick up envelopes and deliver them to family members that are not here today.



### **CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion.

December 30 – 9:00 AM – No Sunday School – Join us for our worship of Lessons and Carols.

### **THANK YOU**

To the youth for leading us in worship today.

### **CHRIST IN OUR HOME**

Daily devotionals for January, February and March are in the narthex bookshelf and on the table by the office for you to take home.

### **COOKIE WALK UPDATE**

Thank you to everyone who brought in cookies for the Cooke Walk. Your kindness is greatly appreciated not just by me, but by our entire church community. We raised \$630. Thank you! Sydney McMurray.

### **ONE VOICE FOR CHRIST**

Sylvia Brackbill will be singing with the **One Voice for Christ** ensemble this Advent Season. One Voice Christian Vocal Ensemble was founded in September, 1991 by David F. Pressau, Minister of Music for Grace Anglican Church in the Mount Washington neighborhood of Pittsburgh. Through his work at the church and as a music and theatre educator, David had the opportunity to meet a number of Christian vocalists who were seeking new ways of using their talents to glorify the Lord. From those beginnings, David was led to pursue the formation of a permanent multi-denominational ensemble tasked with spreading the word of God's love through a ministry of music. Thus, One Voice was created. Each performance is 1 hour and 15 minutes in length: Schedule of performances are:

Sunday – December 16 – 2:00 PM, Grace Anglican Church – Mt. Washington

Sunday – December 16 – 7:00 PM, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Sewickley

For more information about One Voice for Christ go to their website at

<http://onevoiceforchrist.com/about.html>

### **VISITORS**

If you are a visitor, please fill out one of the welcome cards in the pew racks. Also, please feel free to take home a monthly newsletter. We welcome all visitors and invite you to make our church your church.