



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024 10:30 a.m.



Sunday of Joy

In this Advent season, how can our churches become houses where the Holy will be born anew—offering respite, sustenance and care, opening the doors ever wider to those seeking shelter from the onslaught of life? No one church can do it all, but each can do something. As we study the biblical prophets that call us to care for our neighbors and “make room in the inn,” the lonely and frightened spaces within us are filled with the light of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME AND MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

PRELUDE "Once He Came in Blessing" J. S. Bach

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

The Karcher family

Musical score for "Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Joy waits for us at Ad-vent. Joy waits for us to sing. Joy waits for". The second staff begins at measure 6 and includes chord symbols: A, D, Em, Cmaj7, Asus, A, G2, D/F#. The lyrics are: "our a - maze-ment at the grace in e - very-thing. In this time of". The third staff begins at measure 10 and includes chord symbols: Em7, D/F#, G2, D/F#, Em7, D/F#, G2, D/F#. The lyrics are: "pre - par-a - tion for the work of co - cre-a - tion, for the birth - ing". The fourth staff begins at measure 14 and includes chord symbols: G, A, Bm, C, G, D2, Em7D/F#G, G/B, Bm, A, D. The lyrics are: "of a world where won-der is re-stored, Joy is born in us once more." The score ends with a double bar line.

Joy waits for us at Ad-vent. Joy waits for us to sing. Joy waits for

6 A D Em Cmaj7 Asus A G2 D/F#
our a - maze-ment at the grace in e - very-thing. In this time of

10 Em7 D/F# G2 D/F# Em7 D/F# G2 D/F#
pre - par-a - tion for the work of co - cre-a - tion, for the birth - ing

14 G A Bm C G D2 Em7D/F#G G/B Bm A D
of a world where won-der is re-stored, Joy is born in us once more.

*PASSING THE PEACE:

The Peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

***GATHERING HYMN “Awake! Awake! And Greet the New Morn”#107**
(For full music, the New Century Hymnal is located in each pew rack) New Century Hymnal
Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold the Christ of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
Whose humble song is quiet and near yet fills the earth with its ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.

In deepest night Christ’s coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,
The weak are raised above the strong, and weapons are broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
May God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 12: 2-6 Pew Bible pp.558-559

Luke 3: 7-18 Pew Bible p.834

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

PART 1: Mary and Joseph

“Mary Had a Baby”

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord; Mary had a baby, yes, my Lord;
Mary had a baby, yes, Lord! The people keep a-coming for to see her child!

What did she name him, yes, Lord; what did she name him, yes, my Lord;
what did she name him, yes, Lord? The people keep a-coming for to see her child!

Mary named him Jesus, yes, Lord; Mary named him Jesus, yes, my Lord;
Mary named him Jesus, yes, Lord! The people keep a-coming for to see her child!

PART 2: The Angels

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"**

**Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

***Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

PART 3: Shepherd

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light! *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth! *Refrain***

PART 4: The Animals

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

PART 5: Wise Ones

“We Three Kings”

**We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

***Refrain:* O star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

**Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies. *Refrain***

PART 6: CONCLUSION

“Joy to the World”

**Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her king!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature sing!**

**Joy to the world the Savior reigns, let all their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy!**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love!**

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER: “Gloria” #756 *New Century Hymnal* (sing both verses)



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!

³ Dm Gm C F ⁴ Dm Gm C F



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY "Of the Father's Love Begotten" Harmonization by C. Winfred Douglas
(Offer to God and then use this time for prayer. A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #782 *New Century Hymnal*

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light, to Christ revealed in earthly night,
To God the Spirit now we raise our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***COMMISSIONING HYMN** "What Child Is This?" #148 *New Century Hymnal*
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Why lies the child in manger bare where ox and ass are feeding?
Give heed, draw near; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mary!**

**Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!**

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Prepare the Royal Highway" Paul Manz

SENDING

With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.

Worship Endnotes: Various elements adapted from www.worshipdesignstudio.com
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Worship Leaders December 15, 2024

Pastor: Sarah McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Paul Conner

Ushers: Members of the Open and Affirming Ministry Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

Pageant Participants:

Mary - Alice Karcher

Joseph - Emma Wilson

Shepherds: Chloe Jennings, Aubree Mees, and Lily Mulhall

Angels: Camille Mulhall, Evie Moore, MacKenna Hale,

Marion Bush-Kaufman, Celeste Bush-Kaufman

Wise men: Max Moore, Ben Karcher and Charlie Karcher

Animals: Ashley Buck, Alina Hubbard, Adrian Hubbard

Narrator: Jim Richmann

Director: Sara Karcher

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