

WORSHIPPING GOD
December 12, 2021
“Close to Home”

Third Sunday of Advent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

+Childcare is provided for children 3 and under, worship boxes are available in the narthex for older children.

Welcoming Music

Chiming of the Trinity

*Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God,
alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit.*

Call to Worship.....Prepare the Way of the Lord.....Jacques Berthier and
The Taize Community

CBC Ensemble

Invitation to Worship.....Dan Koger

*Hymn #154.....O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*O Come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.*

Refrain:

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

*O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night and death's dark shadows put to flight.*

*O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.*

*Passing of the Peace.....Dan Koger
May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Psalm Reading (Psalm 25, pew bible pp. 425-426).....Shelly Ullom

Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long. Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever! But don't remember the sins of my youth or my wrongdoing. Remember me only according to your faithful love for the sake of your goodness, Lord.

The Lord is good and does the right thing; he teaches sinners which way they should go. God guides the weak to justice, teaching them his way. All the Lord's paths are loving and faithful for those who keep his covenant and laws. God will teach them which path to take.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Doxology (sung to the tune of "O Christmas Tree, O Christmas Tree")

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God, all creatures here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

Lighting the Candles of Advent – the Candle of Joy.....Rick Schohallhammer and Nancy Wren

Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

Joy is the energy of a new season.

Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

So today we light the candle of joy, because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

Congregational Response – "We Lift the Light of Joy"

We lift the light of joy, O God,

Your praise is our delight!

Your blessings flow that all may know

Unbounded joy in Christ.

Your blessings flow that all may know

Unbounded joy in Christ

Gospel Reading (Luke 3:1-18, pew bible p. 810).....Peter Colson

In the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius—when Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea and Herod was ruler over Galilee—God's word came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 John went throughout the region of the Jordan River, calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins.

This is just as it was written in the scroll of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice crying out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be leveled. The crooked will be made straight and the rough places made smooth. All humanity will see God's salvation."

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, "Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives." The crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same." Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He replied, "Collect no more than you are authorized to collect." Soldiers asked, "What about us? What should we do?" He answered, "Don't cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay."

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, "I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I'm not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem.....Wexford Carol.....arr. John Rutter
CBC Ensemble

Morning Prayer.....Dan Koger

Hymn #184.....What Child is This?
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*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 is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: 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 son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the son on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!*

Sermon....."A Home for All".....Dan Koger

Musical Reflection

*Hymn #152..... Prepare the Way, O Zion
Led by the CBC Ensemble

*Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.*

Refrain:

O blessed is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

He brings Gods' rule, O Zion; he comes form heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

*Sending and Blessing.....Dan Koger

*Congregational Response.....Prince of Peace.....Marty Parks

Make our hearts your throne, Prince of Peace.

Make our lives your own, Prince of Peace.

May our joy increase and our striving cease,

as we rest in you, Prince of Peace.

*Postlude.....Tim Price, Organ

The flowers in the sanctuary today are dedicated to the glory of God in loving memory of

Hank and Evelyn Hardison and Robert Babb

by Cindy and Jon Bolling, Kathy and Scott Hardison and Mary Evelyn Babb.

Please see the bulletin insert for poinsettia dedications.

+Childcare Volunteers for Dec. 12th: Penny Overton and Lori Poston