

Worshiping God

December 11, 2022

In Light and Darkness The Third Sunday of Advent

**We invite those who are able to stand*

+Childcare is provided for those 4 and under in room 124, Worship Boxes are available in the Narthex for older children.

Centering Words

*“Thank you, God, that even when I feel empty and dry,
I know that the springs of joy are there, buried deep within me.
I ask you to tap those springs now, release them,
and carry me away in their fullness.” (P. Wilson)*

Chiming of the Trinity

Welcome to Worship

Prelude

Ding Dong! Merrily on High!
(Featuring Martin Glasco on violin and Alice Glasco on cello)

arr. Molly Ijames

Call to Worship

Olivia Flick

Keep watch! Look up! For soon the heavenly host will appear and proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth!

We watch for the light and listen for the voice of God's messengers today, and every day.

Do not be afraid! God's messengers proclaim good news of great joy for all people.

We gather like shepherds and sheep in a field, waiting for the good news of great joy.

In the darkest of nights and brightest of days we watch and we wait. Good news is on the way.

Come, let us worship!

Introit

People, Look East!

arr. Howard Helvey

Opening Prayer

Dan Koger

*Hymn, 154

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Wall/Wasson

**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 Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.**
(refrain)

**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.**
(refrain)

**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.**
(refrain)

*Passing of the Peace

Dan Koger

May the peace of Christ be with you! **And also with you!**

Advent Candle Lighting – the Candle of Joy

Linda and Richard Francis

In our most desperate times, by day or by night, the hope of Christ may be found. We watch and we wait to witness the hope of heaven making a place here on earth.

We light the candle of hope, because hope has come to us.

When we are overwhelmed with conflict without or within, the peace of Christ may be found. We welcome the peace of Christ, present among us and available to all.

We light the candle of peace, because peace has come to us.

Whether we find ourselves in the dark, cozy realm of nighttime or the blazing brightness of day, God's good message of joy has come to us to cheer our hearts.

Today we light the candle of joy, celebrating the good news of a baby to be born in Bethlehem.

Welcome, joy of Christ! Even in times of grief and sorrow, you never forsake us or leave us alone. Fill our hearts with joy today.

Response

We Light the Advent Candles

NOEL NOUVELET

**We light the Advent candles against the winter night,
to welcome our Lord Jesus who is the world's True Light.
We light the second candle, and hear God's holy Word,
it tells us, "Cling to Jesus! Prepare to meet your Lord!"**

Morning Prayer

Kim Miller

*Hymn

Away in a Manger

arr. Heather Sorenson

(Excerpted from CBC's Christmas Eve program, "Carols")

**Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing the poor Baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.**

**Be near me Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.**

Gospel Reading (Luke 1:46-55; Pew Bible, p. 780)

Kim Miller

Mary said, "With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. He has looked with favor on the low status of his servant. Look! From now on, everyone will consider me highly favored because the mighty one has done great things for me. Holy is his name. He shows mercy to everyone, from one generation to the next, who honors him as God. He has shown strength with his arm. He has scattered those with arrogant thoughts and proud inclinations. He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty-handed. He has come to the aid of his servant Israel, remembering his mercy, just as he promised to our ancestors, to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants forever."

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

Anthem *Messiah* arr. Cliff Duren

Sermon *Mary's Song for Our Time* Dan Koger

Musical Reflection

Thoughts for Reflection

*Joy comes into our lives when we mind more about God than we do about ourselves,
when we realize what the things that really matter are.*

*As you prepare for Christmas, what are the things that really matter to you?
What things should matter more than they do right now?*

*Hymn of Response, 188 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

**Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.**

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say, what may the tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?**
(refrain)

**Come to Bethlehem, and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**
(refrain)

Life of the Community

Prayers for the Gifts We Give Dan Koger

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church!

*Doxology PUER NOBIS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him, all creatures here below.

Praise him above, you heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*Sending Forth Dan Koger

*Response, 188 (Refrain) *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Postlude *There's a Song in the Air* arr. Lani Smith

+Childcare: Penny Overton

Flowers?