



Third Sunday of Advent



December 12, 2021

Draw near to God

for God is waiting for you.

* indicates where the congregation is to stand if able
italic type is spoken by the liturgist – bold is spoken by the congregation

PRELUDE

**CALL TO WORSHIP*

Give thanks to God, and call upon his name!

For God is great, and God is here!

Spread the news of what God has done throughout the world.

For God is great, and God is here!

Sing praise, and shout for joy:

For God is great, and God is here! Let us worship God together!

**OPENING PRAYER*

Lord, we have come to this place from a world of demands and schedules. We have sought hope and peace and have found them here. Now we seek the inner joy that only your presence can bring to our lives. Open our hearts and our spirits to your love. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**HYMN #93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold the King of glory waits;
the King of Kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide.
Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Amy, Joe and Tyler Raab

Joy to the world! Our God is now coming to bring us "good news." May we sing songs of praise and gladness. We know that our Savior reigns. Let us light the Candle of Joy.

PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Dear God, in the height of our Advent walk, grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy. Joy in the face of sorrow. Joy in the face of uncertainty. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC What Child is This?

Paul Wachtendorf, trumpet

BAPTISM

Weston William Raab

UNISON PRAYER

Holy God: remind us of the promises given in our own baptism, and renew our trust in you. Make us strong to obey your will, and to serve you with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Claims You

2249

*Refrain**

***"Dan - iel, Dan - iel," God claims you, God helps you, pro -
Child of prom - ise,

Fine

fects you, and loves you, too. 1. We this day do
***2. We your fam - ily
3. We are here to
4. And if you should

D.C.

all a - gree a child of God you'll al - ways be.
love you so, we vow to help your faith to grow.
say this day that we will help you on your way.
tire or cry then we will sing this lul - la - by.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 3:7-18

⁷John 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? ⁸Bear 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. ⁹Even 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." ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" ¹¹In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" ¹³He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." ¹⁴Soldiers 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."

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John 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. ¹⁷His 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." ¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*HYMN # 100 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

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. Thou 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 flight, 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*

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The 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. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The 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 ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I 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. ²⁰At 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.

SERMON Can There Be Joy?

RECOGNITION OF THE OFFERING

**DOXOLOGY*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION*

We will not be afraid, loving God, to offer our hopes, our hearts, our treasures to you, but do so willingly, trusting that you will use them to bring life, joy, grace, and peace to all around us. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is 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.

**HYMN #134* Joy to the World

1. 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.

2. Joy to the earth, 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.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4. 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.

**BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

Church Staff

Susan Fall, Pastor Leanne Yerkes, Director of Music
Susan Flanagan, Office Administrator Jason Gordon, Youth Director
Mary Ann Welsh, Treasurer Chris Miterko, Grounds Keeper

ANNOUNCEMENTS: December 12, 2021

Wednesday noontime lunch: Bring your lunch and join us in Fellowship Hall, December 15 at noon. All are welcomed for a midweek get together.

Caroling on December 19: Immediately following worship all are invited to go caroling at the homes of some of our homebound members. Pack a snack if you can't wait for lunch. Help bring holiday cheer to others. Wear something festive!

Calendar: **December 15 -** 12noon – Fellowship Hall. Bring your own lunch.
 December 16 - 7pm Bible Study - Our Advent study will explore the faith themes in the Christmas classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Bible study is held on Zoom each Thursday at 7:00pm:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/127591875> or by phone: 301-715-8592 or 253-215-8782 using meeting ID 127 591 875.

Christmas Service Schedule: Christmas Eve worship will be held both in-person and on Zoom at 6:00, December 24. This is a compromise to previous years. A special service is being planned that will involve many to portray those who were or might have been present at the birth of the Messiah. There is no rehearsal required but advanced sign up is requested for the various parts. These include Mary, Joseph, The Angel Gabriel, Magi (3 or more), Census Taker, Innkeepers (3 or more), a Bright Star, Stars (multiple) Shepherds (multiple), Angels (multiple), a Cow, a Sheep, a Horse, a Pig, and a Duck.

Each part has a single line to speak and will be given that line ahead of time. Lines are very short. Characters are asked to either create their own costume or ask Pastor Su if she has anything in her vast collection of dress-up costumes.

If you would like to be an on-the-scene character, please contact Pastor Su.

In our thoughts and prayers:

The Conner/Lang Family, Aleena Lang, Natalie Pizza, Bill Wark, Raymond Tinari,
Dick Wright, Sally Thiessen, Faith Hyndman