

A Service of Worship
December 11, 2022
Third Sunday in Advent

We Gather at God's Call

Introit

Greeting

Pouring of the Water

Prelude

Call to Worship/Advent Candle Liturgy

Jennifer and Emily Coffelt and Audriana

Advent is a season of expectation,
A time when we wait with full hearts,
A time when all things seem possible.
Even joy.
Pure joy.

**It is joy to the just to do justice,
Joy for the dreamer to dream,
Joy in the presence of angels,
Joy for the Redeemer to redeem.**

Joy is not something we seek;
Joy is a gift of grace.
Let us not withhold joy from our hearts,
But let us rejoice,
For our Redeemer draws near.

**It is joy to the just to do justice,
Joy for the dreamer to dream,
Joy in the presence of angels,
Joy for the Redeemer to redeem.**

Our Redeemer draws near.
And as we sing our joys to the world,
We sing with gratitude
To the One
Who is our joy.

For in thy presence is the fullness of joy.

*Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vv. 5, 6, special verse)*

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*O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O God of mercy, hear us as we pray;
Dispel the gloomy dark that dims our way,
Unveil the mystery of our Savior's birth;
Let Heaven's glory shine upon the Earth.
Rejoice! Rejoice! The Child of Hope draws near;
An infant born to share God's Kingdom here.*

**The final verse was written by Jean Kilby*

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Magnificent God,

**it is easy to rejoice at the wilderness bursting into bloom
and the hungry being filled with good things.**

**We may not want the powerful to be brought down
or the rich to be sent away empty.**

We know that sometimes, we are the powerful.

Sometimes, we are the rich.

**Sometimes, we are the ones with privilege,
ignoring and harming those you would lift up.**

**Forgive us, humble us, refocus us,
that we may follow your way of life and truth. Amen.**

*Assurance of Forgiveness (responsively)

Every valley is lifted up; every mountain, made low.

Now the glory of the Lord is revealed,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God!

*Response of Praise

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates (v. 3)

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*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.*

We Gather around God's Word

Anthem	<i>Sweet Was the Song</i>	
Scripture		Luke 1:46-55
Sermon	<i>Anticipating Joy</i>	Pastor Keith Phillips
*Affirmation of Faith	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i>	128

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 Swift are winging, angels singing,
 noels ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true.
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
 praises voicing, greet the morrow:
 Christ the babe was born for you!
 Christ the babe was born for you!*

You may be seated.

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory *Before the Marvel of This Night*

Concerns of the Congregation

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

We Are Sent to the World

*Hymn *My Soul Cries Out* 100

*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.*

*Though 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)*

*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)*

*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)*

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

Prepare the Way of the Lord

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*Prepare the way of the Lord.
Prepare the way of the Lord,
and all people will see
the salvation of our God.*