

WORSHIP GUIDE for DECEMBER 12, 2021

SETTING YOUR SPACE

On this third Sunday of Advent, we'll call on the promise of joy. The conversation after last week's movie, *Mission: Joy*, began with participants attempting to define joy – there were, maybe, as many definitions as there were people in the room. If anything, it seems to be one of those “you know it when you feel it” kinds of qualities. This Sunday we'll hear a story of Mary and Elizabeth feeling it, with and for each other, and we'll consider what their experience might mean for our own.

You're also invited to return to the sanctuary, or to tune in virtually, for the Christmas Concert at 4pm, where many people will offer their talents. (A bonus of coming in person is the to-go treat bag you'll get at the end!)

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude – Geoff Clayton, Pianist

Welcome – Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

Gathering Song: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (NC Hymnal #135)

**– Jesse Cromer, Director of Music Ministries, Dave Ferry,
Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton**

O come, all you faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come now, O come now to Bethlehem.
Come and behold the ruler of all angels:

O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!

God of the true God, Light of true Light,
born of the Virgin's womb in human form;
Truly our God, begotten, now created:
O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing all you messengers of heavenly love:
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest":
O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!

Amen, Lord we greet you, born this happy morning:
Jesus to you shall all glory be given;
Word of our God now in flesh appearing:
O come in adoration, O come in adoration,
O come in adoration: Christ is Lord!

Advent Candlelighting Liturgy - Jennifer Scott & Russell Weaver

The Third Sunday of Advent: The Sunday of Joy

One: Advent is a time of expectation and honesty.

All: So even when we are sorrowing or in despair,
we remember the promise of God-With-Us.

One: And while we wait and work for this promised joy,

All: we repent of the times we haven't
acknowledged our privilege,
questioned our assumptions,
defended the vulnerable,
advocated for a better way.

One: We know that we were created for abundant life,

All: and the deep longing of our hearts is joy.

One: We light this candle and we pray:

All: May joy animate us this Christmas.

Sung Response to Candlelighting

Shine a candle into the darkness, breathe new hope into our lives
Wind your blessed peace around us 'til the day when Christ arrives
Shine a candle in the darkness, blow your blessed life into us

Shine a candle into the darkness, breathe new peace into our lives
Wind your blessed joy around us 'til the day when Christ arrives
Shine a candle in the darkness, blow your blessed life into us

Shine a candle into the darkness, breathe new joy into our lives
Wind your blessed love around us 'til the day when Christ arrives
Shine a candle in the darkness, blow your blessed life into us

Children's Time – Sean P. Williams, Children's & Youth Minister

Scripture: Luke 1:39-48

Within a few days, Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"

Mary said, "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day on all generations will call me blessed."

Sermon: “Joy Animates Us” – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (NC #144)

– Jesse Cromer, Dave Ferry, Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!”
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time the Savior comes, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh, the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

Hail the Bearer of God’s peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness,
Light and life our Savior brings, risen with radiant, healing wings.
Mildly laying glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us all from earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the Christ-child bring!”

Pastoral Prayer – Rev. Erika Marksbury

Reach of Our Gifts: AMOS Health & Hope – Jennifer Scott

Closing Words

Going Forth Song: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (NC Hymnal

#129) – Jesse Cromer, Dave Ferry, Heidi Toth, Geoff Clayton

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now.

Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;
now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save. Christ was born to save!

Benediction – Rev. Erika Marksbury

One: Friends,... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude – Geoff Clayton

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To register your worship attendance: Please fill out an attendance card and leave it in the offering plate, or fill out this form:
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