

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022**

**Gathering
*God invites us to enter His presence***

Prelude *Silent Night, Joy to the World, Away in A Manger*
 John Steingata—Oboe


Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Bonnie Mecaughey

Rejoice in the Lord always.
I will say it again: Rejoice!
Let your gentleness be evident to all.
The Lord is near.
We rejoice in the hope of Christ's coming.
Let us worship God!

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

Bonnie Mecaughey

O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.
**Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my exceeding joy;
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.**
Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God. Amen.**

 **Hymn 144**

How Great Our Joy
Verses 1 & 2 with

 **Hymn 145**

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Verses 1 & 2

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle

Hob Pusey

[Third Sunday of Advent, after lighting the third Advent candle]

Prepare the way of the Lord.

We light this candle in joy,

the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.

Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.

Confessing

God invites us to be honest with Him

Prayer of Confession *(Responsively)*

Bonnie Mecaughey

If we look at our own lives,

we must confess the mixture of giving and selfishness,

our waiting on the Lord turned to an endless rush,

our missing the mark of Advent.

Lord, forgive our frantic ways and misplaced efforts.

But we can also trust in God,

who still brings us salvation,

who still supplies us strength,

who hears our songs of gratitude,

who accepts our joyful praise.

Let us all draw water from the wells of salvation.

Let us shout it in church and in town:

The Lord's great name will still be praised.

His saving deeds support our lives.

His greatness still astounds us.

The Holy One of Israel is among us.

Praise the Lord and sing for joy.

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Bonnie Mecaughey

Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear him,

that his glory may dwell in our land.

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;

righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,

and righteousness will look down from the sky.

The Lord will give what is good,

and our land will yield its increase.

Righteousness will go before him

and will make a path for his steps.

In Christ, God's salvation is at hand, and righteousness has come.

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-17

¹⁴ Sing for joy, Daughter Zion;
shout loudly, Israel!
Be glad and celebrate with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
¹⁵ **The LORD has removed your punishment;**
he has turned back your enemy.
The King of Israel, the LORD, is among you;
you need no longer fear harm.
¹⁶ **On that day it will be said to Jerusalem:**
“Do not fear;
Zion, do not let your hands grow weak.
¹⁷ **The LORD your God is among you,**
a warrior who saves.
He will rejoice over you with gladness.
He will be quiet^a in his love.
He will delight in you with singing.”

New Testament Reading

Matthew 2:9-12

⁹ After hearing the king, they went on their way. And there it was—the star they had seen at its rising. It led them until it came and stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ Entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and falling to their knees, they worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their own country by another route.

Sermon

*“God With Us: Joy”
Rev. Tim Latham*

Responding *We respond to God’s Word*

Hymn 119

O Thou Joyful, O Thou Wonderful

Profession of Faith

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten of the Father before all worlds;
God of God, Light of light,
very God of very God;
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made.**

Who, for us and our salvation,
came down from heaven,
and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Hymn 125** *Joy to the World!*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

*This morning's Prayer Partners are
Bernie Hughes, Jim Fox*

 **Postlude**

***Note:** As an added safety measure during worship, the downstairs entrance doors will be locked after the first hymn (approx. 10:40). Please plan your arrival time accordingly.