

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Rev. Kevin M. Pleas

Online Worship

December 13, 2020

PRELUDE “Coventry Carol/Greensleeves” – arr. Joel Raney Adam Peithmann

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Kevin Pleas

INTROIT “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” – Bob McGee
Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.

THE SERVICE OF CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: Advent is a season of joy. We celebrate the coming of the Christ child.

People: **Today we light the third candle, the candle of joy for Christ, our joy is coming.**

Leader: The psalmist exults in Psalm 16: “Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices. In your presence there is fullness of joy.”

People: **The joy of the Lord is our strength! Let us bask in the radiance of Christ’s presence.**

INTRODUCTION

The candle we light today is the candle of joy, also known as the Shepherd’s candle. This candle reflects the joy that comes through Jesus’ arrival and through the salvation he has gifted us. It is the joy of Christ’s coming to earth. Hear these words from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.” Philippians 4:4-5

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

The third candle of Advent is the candle of joy. When the angel Gabriel told Mary that a special child would be born to her she was filled with joy. She sang a song that began with the words, “My soul magnifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.”

ADVENT PRAYER (Unison)

Heavenly Father, let us remember the good news of Jesus’ birth. The birth that has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy comes from you. No earthly thing can give us complete joy. Our hearts are overwhelmed with the joy that was felt by the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men and Mary and Joseph. Our joy is a gift. That gift that gave us that first Christmas in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

HYMN # 119 “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

PASTORAL PRAYER Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

OUR LORD’S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vs. 4

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.

SCRIPTURE READING

Ellie Stetson

First Thessalonians 5:12-24 (Common English Bible)

Brothers and sisters, we ask you to respect those who are working with you, leading you, and instructing you. Think of them highly with love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are disorderly. Comfort the discouraged. Help the weak. Be patient with everyone. Make sure no one repays a wrong with a wrong, but always pursue the good for each other and everyone else. Rejoice always. Pray continually. Give thanks in every situation because this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Don’t suppress the Spirit. Don’t brush off Spirit-inspired messages, but examine everything carefully and hang on to what is good. Avoid every kind of evil. Now, may the God of peace himself cause you to be completely dedicated to him; and may your spirit, soul, and body be kept intact and blameless at our Lord Jesus Christ’s coming. The one who is calling you is faithful and will do this.

PASTOR’S MESSAGE

“In All Circumstances”

Rev. Kevin Pleas

HYMN # 143

“Joy to the World”

CLOSING WORDS

BENEDICTION (Unison)

**May the God of peace sanctify us entirely.
May our spirits and souls and bodies
Be kept sound and blameless
For the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
The one who calls us is faithful,
And he will do this,
As we go forth in Joy. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata in d” – Dietrich Buxtehude

Please note: In these difficult times, we are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers. For those who are able, we are grateful for your continuing contributions to the stewardship of our church.

Hymn No. 119

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

1. 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!

2. O come, thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's deep shadows put to flight.

3. 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.

4. 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.

Hymn No. 143

“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 world, 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. 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.