

First Church in Windsor, UCC

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021, at 10 a.m.

A Place for the Holy: Joy



Prelude

Welcome

***Lighting the Advent Candle: Joy**

Response

Joy Waits for Us at Advent

Words and music by Amanda Udis-Kessler

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**Joy waits for us at Advent
Joy waits for us to sing.
Joy waits for our amazement
at the grace in everything.
In this time of preparation
for the work of co-creation,
for the birthing of a world
where wonder is restored.
Joy is born in us once more!**

The Peace

The Joy of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, I invite you to pass a “wave” of joy to the people around you (and the people worshipping at home)!

***Hymn**

Lift Up Your Heads
From Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789
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**Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;
behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near;
the Savior of the world is here.**

**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.**

**Redeemer come! I open wide
my heart to you; here, Christ, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel;
your grace and love in me reveal.**

Prayer of Invocation

Holy God, your coming to us in Jesus Christ we celebrate with joy. Your mercy is from generation to generation, so your visit to us today restore our memory of all your goodness to us. The joy we have in you is available to all. May we commit to be as generous toward others as you are to us. May our spirits rejoice and magnify God-with-us, Emmanuel. Amen.

Prayer of our Savior

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Choir Anthem

I Hear the Prophet Callin'
By Pepper Choplin
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Children's Moment

Children aged 3 to 11 may leave for Faith Formation with Erin Newcomb-Moore.

Scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 12: 2-6

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. ⁵Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done

gloriously; this be known in all the earth. ⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Reading: Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." ⁴⁶And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; ⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. ⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." ⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

"Leap for Joy"

Hymn

All Earth is Waiting

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**All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows, the sowing of our God.
All the world, bound and struggling,
seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.**

**Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel'.
One whose name is 'God with us' our savior shall be,
through whom hope will blossom
once more within our hearts.**

**Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.**

Prayers of the People

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Emmanuel

Words and music by Bob McGee

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**Emmanuel, Emmanuel,
his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us.
His name is called Emmanuel.**

Announcements

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. We encourage you to give online [here](#).

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Words and music by Lewis H. Redner

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**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing, and voices ring, and peace to all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the glorious love of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

*Benediction

May God's Door of Welcome
swing open in your heart and in your life.

May Christ's humble first dwelling
remind you of the plenty you already know.

And may the Spirit lead you into
more possibility and hospitality than you can imagine,
making room in The Inn for all.

May it be so for you.
May it be so for us.
May it be so for this church.

Amen.

Postlude

Christ Is Born Today

By Douglas Wagner

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Played by the Bell Choir

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*Please stand as you are able

Bolded Font to be read by all