

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022**  
**Rev. Vivian L. Rodeffer, Pastor**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
**Maxine Alstrom, Music Director**



## **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME AND INVOCATION**

**Pastor Viv**

*Gracious God, The coming of our Lord is near, and we wait in joyful expectation, Draw close, Lord Jesus Christ, shed your light on all that is filled with darkness. Amen.*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to praise.

**Loving One, strengthen us and steady us.**

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to pray.

**Living One, say to the fearful parts of us, "Here I am."**

This is the day the Lord has made, so we gather to sing.

**Everlasting One, open our hearts, quench our thirst, and let us blossom as we attend to you, fill us with joy.**

### **THE ADVENT WREATH**

**Aisha Lettsome and Javyn Matthew**

**READER:** The theme for this third week of Advent is joy. And the candle for the third week of Advent is pink because pink is the color of joy. We are joyful because we are now more than halfway through our Advent season of waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**ALL SING: "Candles of Advent"**

**Light one candle in the night,**

**Light one candle of joy.**

**Joy for the song the angels sing.**

**Joy for the news they bring.**

**Joy in the child who is born a king.**

**Light one candle of joy.**

*The pink candle is lighted at this time.*

**READER:** God our Father, we thank you for the joy of this third week of Advent. Open our hearts to praise you now with all the angels and saints, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, your Son. We make this prayer to you in His name. Amen

**\*HYMN #89**

**“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”**

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore You,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!**

**3 Always giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Well-spring of the joy of living,  
Ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,  
Let Your light upon us shine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.**

**2 All Your works with joy surround  
You,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,  
Stars and angels sing around You,  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Praising You eternally!**

**4 Mortals, join the mighty chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
Joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife;  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.**

**GATHERED PRAYER**

**Lord, thank you for surprising us with your joy! In the middle of our day-to-day chaos your care and grace find us just when we need it. Continue to transform us with your love, so that we can work on building your kin(g)dom more fully here with all we have and all we are. Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Isaiah 35: 1-10**

**Javyn Matthew, Reader**

The Return of the Redeemed to Zion

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart, “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened.6 then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. 7 the burning sand

shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

<b>CHOIR</b>	<b>"O Come, Emmanuel"</b> Noelle Gizzi, flute	Don Besig
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<b>MESSAGE</b>	<b>The Possibility Of Joy</b>	<b>Pastor Viv</b>
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#### **RECEIVING THE MORNING'S OFFERINGS**

##### **\*ADVENT DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace**

**Praise God for gifts of joy and love. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God for sending Christ to dwell**

**On earth for us – Emmanuel. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

##### **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God, we know you love a cheerful giver, so it is with the absolute joy of this Advent season that we offer our gifts back to you. Bless them and multiply them to extend our reach far and beyond our church and community, to serve your beloved children in all the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**THE MORNING PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER** Pastor Karen  
**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*HYMN #249** "There's A Song in the Air"

**1 There's a song in the air! There's a star in the sky!  
 There's a mother's deep prayer and a Baby's low cry!  
 And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
 For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**2 There's a tumult of joy o'er the wonderful birth,  
For the virgin's sweet Boy is the Lord of the earth.  
Ay! the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,  
For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King!**

**3 In the light of that star lie the ages impearled;  
And that song from afar has swept over the world.  
Every hearth is aflame, and the beautiful sing  
In the homes of the nations that Jesus is King!**

**4 We rejoice in the light, and we echo the song  
That comes down through the night from the heavenly throng.  
Ay! we shout to the lovely evangel they bring,  
And we greet in His cradle our Savior and King!**

**\*BENEDICTION**

May God come quickly to save you; May Christ Jesus give you everlasting joy and gladness; And may the Holy Spirit strengthen your hearts and lead you on God's holy way.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

**\*Stand as able.**

**CALENDAR**

<b>Monday, December 12</b>	<b>10 AM Prayer/ Discussion Group</b>
<b>Tuesday, December 13</b>	<b>4:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM Visiting Harp Prayer Circle</b>
<b>Sunday, December 18</b>	<b>10 AM Choir Cantata 11 AM Cookie Walk</b>
<b>Friday, December 23</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>
<b>Saturday, December 24</b>	<b>5:30 Christmas Eve Service</b>
<b>Sunday, December 25</b>	<b>10 AM Christmas Day Worship</b>
<b>Monday, December 26</b>	<b>Office Closed</b>