

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ

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Rev. Danielle E. Neff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Amy Northridge, Transitional Minister

Mr. Denny Daugherty, Adult Choir Director & Tech Director

Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

Third Sunday of Advent

8:00 & 10:30 AM

Make Ready: Share Joy The Candle of Joy

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

by Beethoven

SCRIPTURE¹

Avery Shindler

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.

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

OPENING SOLO NO. 120 (BH, v. 1)

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where Emmanuel may go!

INTRODUCTION²

Matt & Tami Grimes

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE³

L: "Make ready! We're going to have a Savior!" Let us prepare for His presence.

C: Make ready our spirits to be a gift, a presence in someone's life this Advent season.

L: Make ready! The Prince of Peace invites us to experience the peace He gives.

C: Make ready our hearts to share the peace of Christ with those whose hearts are filled with turmoil.

L: Make ready to share the joy of this holy season.

C: Make ready our voices to lift joyful praise to God so that the earth rings with the sound of celebratory songs.

L: Make ready to be wrapped in God's love as Mary swaddled God's only Son.

C: Make ready our arms to wrap God's lost and lonely children in love through our care, concern, and compassion.

L: Make ready to share the joy of God's redeeming love in the birth of the Christ child. Today we light the candle of Joy.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 122** (BH, see p. 4)

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus

TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁴

P: Holy God, we might need to confess that we have forgotten what this story is about- the story of the birth of Jesus. We've been confused, so we wrap ourselves with so much planning, and shopping, and gift giving and sending; with so much decorating and card-writing and partying that we haven't left any time to sit in the dark, to sit in the silence, to contemplate the Incarnation, to give thanks for this one life that changed the world. We have celebrated so many Christmases, and yet- we still need You to remind us what this is all about, to turn us around and set us in the right direction. May the generosity that drives us this season be present all year. May the warmth and concern we show continue past the holidays. May our hearts, so full of so much, be mostly full of love for You and for each other. Heal us, we pray. Amen.

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 106 (BH, v. 1, see p. 4) *My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise*

ALL SING: My heart sings out with joyful praise to God who raises me, who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny. The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace to those who seek their Maker's will in every time and place.

(10:30 AM) **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE & BOX OPENING**

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24

Luke 1: 39-56

MESSAGE

HYMN (see p. 5)

Canticle of the Turning

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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. 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 NO. 120** (RH, see p. 6)

Joy to the World

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

arr. Page

Thank you to our Advent team for decorating our altar and planning our worship for this season. The Advent team members include Cindy Hogentogler, Lana Fritz, Connie Wolfe, Melissa Shindler, Deb Herlocker, Pastor Danielle, Denny Daugherty, & Travis Pinci. Also, thank you to the Dallam family for setting up the lights on the altar and to Jodi Bender for staining the wood! A special thanks to Lee Brown for his donation of our Christmas tree and wreaths! Thank you to Paula Strayer, Braden Bicher, Tom Bair, Debbie Butcher, & Mike Gibbs for serving on the praise team. Thank you to Braden Bicher for reading Scripture. Thank you to Denny Daugherty, Jack & Deb Herlocker, & Ron Miles for serving on the tech team. Thank you to Don & Diane Strine, Rick & Cindy Hogentogler, Faye Heal, Lana Fritz, & Les & Doris Loucks for serving on the welcome teams this morning!

¹ Pre-recorded voice: Avery Shindler

² Pre-recorded voices: Matt & Tami Grimes, text written by Cindy Hogentogler

³ Written by Deb Herlocker

⁴ Prayer of Confession was written by Beth Merrill Neel and published on holdfasttowhatisgood.com

Come O Long Expected Jesus

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Come, O long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set all
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope to all the
3. Born all peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, you
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it, come to claim us

4 

peo - ple free; From our fears and sins re - lease us; grant us your true
earth im - part; Dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, en - ter ev - ery
came to reign! Born to rule on earth for - ev - er, come, be known to
as your own; By your all suf - fi - cient mer - it, let us share your

8 

lib - er - ty.
long - ing heart.
us a - gain.
cross and crown.

My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise

Ruth Duck

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Piano  $\text{♩} = 80$

1. My heart sings out with joy - ful praise to God who rais - es me, Who

6 

came to me when I was low and changed my des - ti - ny, The Ho - ly One, the

11 

Liv - ing God, is al - ways full of grace To those who seek their Mak - er's will in

16 

ev - ery time and place.

Canticle of the Turning

Rory Cooney

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is
2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in
3. From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a stone will be left on
4. Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us

5

great, and my spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you bring to the ones who
me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to
stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant from his
fast: God's mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing

9

wait, You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not
be. Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you
throne. The hun - gry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can nev - er
grasp. This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

13

spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to
yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to
earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev 'ry mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to
bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a -

17

turn? My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -
turn.
turn.
round.

22

- way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

Joy to the World

Isaac Watts

George Handel

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♩ = 80

Piano

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let
2. Joy to the earth! The Sa - vior reigns; Let
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, and

5

earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - ry
men their songs em - ploy! While fie - lds and
makes the na - tions prove the glo - ries

9

heart pre - pare Him room and heav'n and na - ture
floods, rocks, hills and plains re - peat the sound - ing
of his right - eous ness and won - ders of His

13

sing, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and hea - v'n and
joy, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat re -
love, and won - ders of His love, and won - ders and

17

hea - v'n and na - ture sing.
- peat the sound - ing joy.
won - ders of His love.