



## *Jesus the Messiah*

### **Harmony United Methodist Church December 13, 2020 The Third Sunday in Advent**

GATHERING MUSIC  
WELCOME  
PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE  
Patrick, Laura, Ben, Cate, and Abby Mathews

**Reader:** This is the third Sunday in Advent. Today we light two purple candles and the pink candle. The first Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. On the second Sunday, we lit the candle of love. Today, we light the candle of joy. One thing that sometimes happens as we get ready to celebrate Jesus' birth is we expect to be happy all the time. Joy is not the same as happy. Joy is a deeper feeling created by knowing that God cares for us. Joy is remembering that God sent Jesus so we would always know of God's care. During Advent, we pray that we may remember God's gift of Jesus to the world and know the joy that gift brings to all people.

**Reader:** When we look at the third candle, we remember God's promise of joy. God promised to send a Savior to the people. Today we read from the Gospel of Luke. In the Scripture, we read Mary's song of praise and joy. There must have been times when Mary was frightened, worried, fearful and sad. But we have these words of joy even in a time when she was unsure of the future. Her words can guide us to look for the joy of God even when things may be uncertain for us.

**Reader:** Read Luke 1:47-55 (Common English Bible)

**Prayer:** Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the joy remembering Jesus' birth brings to us today. Help us live in such a way that our words and our actions help others know of the joy you give. Amen.

*I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

*I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
We shall know the joy of Jesus.  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Susan Whitman

All creation holds its breath. The time is almost here.  
The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.  
Excitement is all around us.

Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form.  
Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.  
We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, our joy.

## PRAYER

Susan Whitman

“Let us pray.”

O God beyond time, we are an impatient people. As the daylight continues to grow shorter and the darkness longer, teach us to wait with faithful expectation. In this time of worship, open our eyes and hearts to the Advent blessings in our midst. May every day be a day of gratitude for your compassion and grace. Through the guidance of your Spirit, lead each one of us in the pathways that make for peace. In the name of Emmanuel, God with Us, we pray. Amen.

## RESPONSE

*Emmanuel*

UMH 204

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

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Jessica Randall

## MORNING PRAYER

Pastor Debra

## THE 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 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Silent Night*

The Clegg Sisters

THE MESSIAH

Isaiah 9:2-7

Susan Whitman

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation  
and increased their joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest,  
as warriors rejoice  
when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,  
you have shattered  
the yoke that burdens them,  
the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be destined for burning,  
will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the LORD Almighty  
will accomplish this.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Susan Whitman

May these words of prophecy, promise, and preparation encourage us to steadfast love and action.

SERMON

*The Messiah*

Pastor Debra

HANDLE'S MESSIAH

PRAYER OF OFFERTORY DEDICATION

Susan Whitman

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy,  
And we give with joy.  
Joy for all you have given us;  
Joy because of your sacred promises.  
Receive these generous offerings,  
And use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

UMH 211

*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 street shineth  
The everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given;  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his 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.*

*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 in us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel!*

CLOSING COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Pastor Debra

Be people of joy.  
Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.  
Share joy by seeing the good in each other.  
Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come.

Share joy by praying for our world.  
In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share joy.  
As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share joy, peace, and hope with those you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE