

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

Theme: "Joyful anticipation of the promised Messiah"

### **WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF THE KING**

Gathering Song: "**Come and Praise the Lord Our King**"

1 Come and praise the Lord our king, Alleluia,  
let the world with carols ring. alleluia!

2 Hear the news the angels tell, Alleluia,  
Christ is born, and all is well, alleluia!

3 With the shepherds make your way, Alleluia,  
find the son of God today. alleluia!

4 See the gifts the wise men hold Alleluia,  
they bring incense, myrrh and gold. alleluia!

5 In our praises take your part, Alleluia,  
thank him with a joyful heart. alleluia!

6 Come and praise the Lord our king, Alleluia,  
let the world with carols ring. alleluia!

*Michael Perry (1942 - 1996)*  
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\*Call to Worship (Inspired by Psalm 126)

We gather in preparation

**for good news is about to be proclaimed.**

The Lord has done great things for us!

**And we are filled with joy!**

Our God has turned our weeping into singing,

**our tears into songs of joy!**

O Christ of God, come anew in our hearts this day,

**and remain in us forever.**

\*Song: "**Dawning Light of Our Salvation**"

1. Long in darkness Israel wandered;  
Long in mortal shadows, we  
Walked in bondage and self-pity,  
Trod in paths of sin and grief.  
In the prophets' words He told us,  
Long the God of Israel spoke;  
He alone in strength would save us  
From the hands of all our foes.

*Refrain:*

Every valley be exalted!  
Every mountain be made plane!  
Crooked ways repent and straighten;  
All creation bend in praise!

2. He shall raise a mighty Savior;  
Born of David's lineage, He  
Comes in cov'nant love to claim us  
From our sins to set us free.  
Light to those who dwell in darkness  
Life to those from death who flee  
Joy unto the earth, and gladness,  
To your pathways dawning peace!

*Refrain*

3. Jesus, Lord, and mighty Savior,  
David's Son and yet his King,  
Dawning light of our salvation,  
Of your saving pow'r we sing!  
Stand, Oh lame, and dance ye broken,  
Know the Savior's healing grace;  
Come, Oh deaf and hear him singing;  
Turn, Oh blind, behold his face!

*Refrain*

Words: Wendell Kimbrough (c) 2012 Wendell Kimbrough  
Music: Bruce Benedict, (c) 2012 Cardiphonia

\*God's Greeting (from 2 Corinthians 13:14):

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\*We Pass the Peace of Christ to Our Neighbour

Prayer of Adoration:

Loving God,  
Compassionate Son,  
Healing Spirit,  
God of all times and places,  
You approach us with such kindness and tenderness,  
You look kindly on us no matter what state or condition,  
Your care for this world and for us is greater than we could know or  
imagine:

**You turn chaos into order**  
**You turn weeping into laughter**  
**You turn sorrow into joy**  
**You turn death into life**  
**You redeem all that appears lost**  
**And make new all that has been destroyed.**

And so in adoration of you  
we come and we pause,  
we rest from our work and responsibilities,  
and we rest from our play and from our fantasies,  
**to enjoy you**  
**to enjoy your beauty**  
**and your world and our life in you. Amen.**

### **WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Hymn of Preparation: **"Hope is a Star"** BoP#119 v. 1,2,3

*Lighting the Advent Candle – Joy* (The Kaldeway Family)

Song of Expectation: **“Come Light our Hearts”**

Youth message: “The Greatest”

Song: **“Prepare the Way of the Lord”** BoP#112

### **GOD SPEAKS TO US FROM HIS WORD**

Prayer for Understanding:

The Reading of Scripture:

Psalm 126

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: “Joy That Lasts a Lifetime”**

Affirmation of God's Joy from Isaiah 61:1-4:

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me,  
for the Lord has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to comfort the broken-hearted  
and to proclaim that captives will be released  
and prisoners will be freed.  
He has sent me to tell those who mourn  
that the time of the Lord's favor has come,  
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.  
To all who mourn in Israel,  
he will give a crown of beauty for ashes,  
a joyous blessing instead of mourning,  
festive praise instead of despair.

In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks  
that the Lord has planted for his own glory.  
They will rebuild the ancient ruins,  
repairing cities destroyed long ago.  
They will revive them,  
though they have been deserted for many generations.

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Hymn of Response: "**Joy to the World**" BoP #153

Prayers of God's People, concluded with the Lord's prayer

**WE BRING OUR GIFTS**

Work and Witness of our Church

A Time of Giving

Sung Response: "**Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow**" BoP#79

**WE LEAVE WITH JOY AND EXPECTATION**

The Benediction

Recessional Hymn: "**Unto Us a Child Is Born**" BoP#160

