

Order of Worship
December 11th 2022 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome, Announcements, and Peace

Lighting of the Advent Candle

The Gerardi Family

Jesus, Help us focus on you in this busy season. May we be aware of the joy you bring into our lives. We want to find you in the everyday moments of life and come with hearts of gratitude to your manger on Christmas. Amen.

Call to Worship

Today there is good news for us to behold!

Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.

For in the mercy and love of God,
the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain,
those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing,
and there shall be peace.

God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.

Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

Believe in the power of God in all things. Amen.

~ posted on the Ministry Matter

Hymn of Praise

The Trees Of The Field

RH #764

Verse

You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy
And all the trees of the field
Will clap will clap their hands

Chorus

And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands

The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
While you go out with joy

Verse

You shall go out with joy
And be led forth with peace
The mountains and the hills
Will break forth before you
There'll be shouts of joy

And all the trees of the field
Will clap will clap their hands

Chorus

And all the trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
The trees of the field
Will clap their hands
While you go out with joy

Opening Prayer

Life-giving God, we are a blessed people.
In this moment of worship we pray that you might bless us anew.
Give us ears to hear the melodies of praise that fill the world around us.
And as we hear the songs, teach us to sing,
to dance with abandon,
to rejoice in the wonders of your grace.
Forgive us when we have passed by signs of your mercy.
From this moment forward,
open our eyes to the places where joy is springing up from parched ground.
Lead us by your Spirit in the pathways of your overflowing peace, hope, and joy.
Amen.

~ written by Rev. Nancy J

Special Music

Wie zittern und wanken der Sünder Gedanken (How they quiver and waver, the thoughts of sinners) from Herr, gehe nicht ins Gericht mit deinem Knecht (Lord, do not pass judgment on Your servant), BWV 105
Johann Sebastian Bach

Translation

Wie zittern und wanken
How tremble and waver
Der Sünder Gedanken,
the sinners' thoughts
Indem sie sich untereinander verklagen (Romans 2:15)
while they bring accusations against each other
Und wiederum sich zu entschuldigen wagen.
and on the other hand dare to make excuses for themselves.
So wird ein geängstigt Gewissen
In this way a troubled conscience
Durch eigene Folter zerrissen.
is torn apart through its own torments.

Scripture Reading

Jacqui Forster, reader

Isaiah 35:1-10

New Revised Standard Version

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 singing.
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 unstopped;
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 traveller, 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 the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 11:2-11

New Revised Standard Version

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."
As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'
"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of the People

Chriss Flynn, Reader

Offertory

*Schafe können sicher weiden (Sheep may safely graze)
from Was mir behagt, ist nur die muntre Jagd, BWV 208
(Only the lively hunt pleases me)*

Johann Sebastian Bach

Translation

Schafe können sicher weiden
Wo ein guter Hirte wacht.

Wo Regenten wohl regieren
Kann man Ruh' und Friede spüren
Und was Länder glücklich macht.

Sheep may safely graze and pasture
In a watchful shepherd's sight.

Those who rule with wisdom guiding
Bring to hearts a peace abiding
Bless a land with joy made bright.

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost
Amen**

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Thomas Ken

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Communion

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Say He Will Come
WS #213

Verse 1

Say He will come pray He will come
To a sin filled world with His love
Chosen One sent from our God
above

Verse 2

Say He will come pray He will come
And bring peace to all who believe
Chosen One sent from our God in
love

Verse 3

Say He will come pray He will come
And bring joy to all who believe
Holy One sent to bring peace and
love

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Robert Lau

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Closing Prayer

Holy God of Joy,
We rejoice in the reality of who you are.
We live within the joy of your love for us.
Our contentment comes and goes.
Our happiness ebbs and flows.
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
our physical health, our brain chemistry.
But our joy is deeply rooted
in our identity as your beloved children.
Let us go forth in peace and joy.
Amen.

~ written by Joanna Harader

Blessing

Postlude

Our love in action now begins

This Sunday's Special Music is brought to you by,
Marie Schuppan, Lori Patrick, Terry Lee & Paul
Dankers
and Michael Schoepe.

Thank you to all of this Sunday's volunteers!

Greeter: Rhonda Coxon & Cecy Rios
Readers: Jacqui Forster & Chriss Flynn
Altar Setter : Judi Loubier
Fellowship Host: ...

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