

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 2023**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude** *Festive Overture* *Orchestra*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**!** **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

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.**

—based on Psalm 126

**!** **Invocation** (*Responsively*) *Dan Obenschain*

In anticipation we gather.  
**With expectation we wait.**  
We gather to watch for the coming of the good news  
into our world and into our lives.  
**We wait to see the fullness of God's vision.**  
O God, open the doors to our hearts,  
that this year we may have room for the birth of Jesus.  
**O God, as we marvel over all that you are doing,  
overwhelm us with so much wonder  
that words of praise spring forth from our lips!**  
In this time of waiting, let true worship begin in our hearts.  
**Let our praises rise up to the heavens!  
Let our celebrations spread new hope over a tired world!  
Let us gather together all our dreams and lives  
to worship our God! Amen.**

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle**

*Come, Light Our Hearts* *McCracken*

*Chorus*  
*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*  
*For You, O Lord, our souls in stillness wait.*  
*Truly our hope is in You.*  
*Truly our hope is in You.*

*Verse 1*  
*O Lord of life, our only hope,*

*Your radiance shines on all who look  
to You in the dark.  
Emmanuel come,  
come light our hearts.*

*Chorus*

*Verse 2  
O joy above all other loves,  
in You we find more than enough.  
We come as we are;  
O heal and restore,  
come light our hearts.*

*Chorus*

*Tag  
Truly our hope is in You.*

### **Third Advent Candle Reading**

*Steve, Elizabeth &  
Hadley Chambers*

Prepare the way of the Lord.  
We light this candle in joy,  
the joy that we have in Jesus, our Savior.  
**Prepare, then, the way of the Lord.**

### **Cantata**

The Carols of Christmas by Phil Barfoot  
Arranged & Orchestrated by Trey Ivey

**Come, Adore Him** (O Come, All ye Faithful; O Come, O Come, Emmanuel;  
God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen)

(Choir only) Come, come, come, come ...

(Choir & Congregation)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the king of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

O come O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel, Israel.

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay.  
Remember Christ, our Savior, was born of Christmas Day,  
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.  
O tiding of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tiding of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises all you within this place!  
And with true love and brotherhood, come celebrate His grace.

This holy Child of Christmas, may each one seek His face.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O tidings of comfort and joy!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

(Choir only)  
Christ the Lord! Christ the Lord! Come, come, come, come ...

### **The Birth of Jesus – Luke 2:1-7**

#### **What Child is This?- Orchestra**

#### **The Shepherds & The Angels – Luke 2:8-20**

**Jesu, Joy!** (Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring; Angels We Have Heard on High)

(Choir & Orchestra)  
Jesu, joy of man's desiring,  
Child of wonder, Child of grace and light.  
Came to save with love undying  
On that silent holy Christmas night.

Word of God made flesh among us,  
Hope of glory dwell within us.  
With the angels we will praise.  
Hallelujahs we will gladly raise!  
Hallelujahs we will gladly raise!

(Choir, Orchestra, & Congregation)  
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing or the plains;  
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria ... in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria ... in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria ... in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria ... in excelsis Deo!

(Choir only)  
Gloria to the newborn King, newborn King

### **The Magi Visit the Messiah - Matthew 2:1-11**

**A Soulful Holy Night** (O Holy Night!; Falling Down on Our Knees)

(Soloists & Choir)  
O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;

It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine, O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us ... praise His holy name! Praise His name!

For Christ is the Lord, O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!

We enter in to humbly worship Him,  
Falling down, before Him now.  
We adore the holy Lord of lords,  
Falling down on our knees. (repeat stanza)

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born!

O night, O holy night, O night divine!  
O night divine! (repeat)

## **The Call**

**Celtic Christmas Celebration** (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; He Is Born; Angels From the Realms of Glory)

(Choir, Orchestra, and Congregation)  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.  
Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding  
pipe and drum.  
He is born, the divine Christ child. Join in a song, for the Lord has come.  
Prophets wise had foretold His birth, pledging peace to all men on earth.

Filled with hope, men began to pray 'til His coming this happy day.  
He is born, the divine Christ child. Greet Him with joyful resounding  
pipe and drum.  
He is born, the divine Christ child, join in a song, for the Lord has come.

(Choir)  
Join in a song, for the Lord has come!

(Choir & Congregation)  
Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn King!

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching 'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant light.  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!  
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

(Choir)  
Worship Christ, the newborn King, newborn King, the newborn King!

### **Offering**

***Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him***

**Invitation**      Remember the words the Lord Jesus himself said:  
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."  
—from Acts 20:35, NIV

### **Offering**

**Offertory**                      *Joy to the World! (Flute Ensemble)*

### **! 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. A-men.*

### **! Prayer of Dedication**

God of hope, you gave your Son to free a lost world.  
You give your Spirit to comfort and encourage.  
You give us hope for a future free of pain, sorrow, and tears.  
You promise us a future with you. In gratitude, we bring you  
our time, talents, and tithes. May our gifts be used so that many  
others will taste and see the goodness of knowing you.  
In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

**Proclaiming**  
**God speaks to us through His Word**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verse 3)**

*O come, Thou wisdom from on high,  
And order all things, far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And cause us in her ways to go.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*

**Scripture Reading**                      *Micah 5:2*


<sup>2</sup> Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times.

*1 Corinthians 1: 26-31*

<sup>26</sup> Brothers and sisters, consider your calling: Not many were wise from a human perspective, not many powerful, not many of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> Instead, God has chosen what is foolish in the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen what is weak in the world to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup> God has chosen what is insignificant and despised in the world—what is viewed as nothing—to bring to nothing what is viewed as something, <sup>29</sup> so that no one may boast in his presence. <sup>30</sup> It is from him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom from God for us—our righteousness, sanctification, and redemption— <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written: **Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.**

**Sermon**                      *“O Come, Our Wisdom from On High”*  
   *Rev. Tim Latham*

**Commissioning**  
**God sends us out into the world as His witnesses**

 **Hymn 155**                      *Once in Royal David's City*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**                      *Go Tell it on The Mountain*                      *Orchestra*