



**8:30 a.m. ~ Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>**

## PRELUDE

“Good Christians All Rejoice”

arr. Martin

*Piano*

## WELCOME & RELATIONSHIPS of PEACE

### OPENING HYMN “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”

#### OPENING LITURGY

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: We light the third Advent candle as we prepare for the arrival of the Savior, who would come to His people in human flesh, and who promises to come again. In a world of darkness, a light shines. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: The third, pink Advent candle has been known as the shepherd candle or the candle of joy. The third Sunday of Advent is known also as Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete in Latin means “rejoice,” as found in Philippians 4:4. We find our joy in Christ this season and always as we prepare to celebrate His birth. Jesus affirms the joy found only in Him as we remain connected to Him: “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.”

**C: The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.**

P: Guided by the light of joy, we respond with the psalmist: “Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth! Serve the LORD with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!

**C: Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.**

P: Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise!

**C: Give thanks to Him; bless His name!**

P: For the LORD is good; His steadfast love endures forever,

**C: and His faithfulness to all generations.”**

#### RESPONSE “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

P: As we gather today to hear God's Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise, we come before Him as people who are broken by an imperfect world, burdened by sin, and bearing guilt for the things we have done and the things we have left undone. In the midst of our condition, the Word of God speaks to us. As written in Paul's Epistle to the Church at Philippi, we hear, "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice."

**C: We confess we do not rejoice in everything; instead, we let the weight of this world bring us down. Instead of seeing all good things from Your hand, at times we focus on that which does not give You glory nor bring lasting joy to our lives.**

P: "Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand."

**C: We confess we have at times been unreasonable in our relationships with others and in our relationship with You. Our witness to Your grace has faltered.**

P: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God."

**C: We confess we have been anxious about our sin and our circumstances of life. Create in us a clean heart and renew in us a right spirit that we may abide in Your love and that Your joy may be in us, and our joy may be full.**

**RESPONSE "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 53:1-7 [ESV]**

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

R: Alleluia! He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;

**C: Upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with His wounds we are healed. Alleluia!**

## HOLY GOSPEL Luke 1:46-55 [ESV]

R: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke:

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

## STATEMENT of FAITH *from the Gospel of John*

R: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

**C: All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.**

R: In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**C: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

R: He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world did not know Him.

**C: He came to His own, and His own people did not receive Him.**

R: But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God,

**C: Who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.**

R: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**C: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

## HYMN “What Child is This”

## SERMON “FROM MANGER TO CROSS”

## OFFERING CONNECT

## OFFERTORY

“We Adore Thee (Hymn to Joy)”

arr. JB Taylor

*Piano*

## PRAYERS of the CHURCH

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## THE PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and calling sinners to repentance that they might escape from the wrath to be revealed when He comes again in glory. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

## SANCTUS

## WORDS of INSTITUTION

### THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

### AGNUS DEI

### DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

“Joy to the World”

“Joy”

*Piano*

arr. Jim Brickman  
arr. George Winston

### POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

### UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

### BENEDICTION

### NUNC DIMITTIS

### POSTLUDE

“Joy to the World”

*Piano*

arr. Martin



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