

Sunday December 15, 2024,
Advent Three
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgement of the Land:
Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy

Advent Candle Lighting: Hope is a Star

VU 7 vs 3

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born**

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

On this third Sunday of Advent, we come with joy as a community of faith.

We watch, we wait, we wonder.

May we bask in the joyful moments that are ours when we take time to notice you – in the beauty of nature, in the beauty of a single snowflake with its intricate, always-unique pattern, or in the many snowflakes that comprise the softly falling snow, or in the play and laughter of children.

We embrace joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, Mary's new boy.

As we light the third candle in our wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of joy. Let us pray.

God of joy, on this third Sunday of Advent, may we bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in relationships, the joy of gathering in our community of faith and being with those we love, and the joy that awaits us in the coming of Jesus. Amen.

Introit: See Amid the Winter's snow

VU 76 vs 1

**See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.**

**Hail, thou ever-blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

Call to Worship:

We gather together to proclaim the glory of God!

We come to rejoice in God our Saviour!

God raises up the humble and brings down the mighty.

He fills the hungry but sends the rich away empty.

God's promises are always true!

We rejoice in God who is full of both power and mercy. And so, we say together,

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 for ever and ever. Amen**

Opening Hymn: Hark! The Glad Sound

VU 29

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release.
in Satan's bondage held.
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

First Reading: Philippians 4: 4 – 7

We Listen

Christmas Pageant

We Respond

Musical Offering: Oliver Parnel: Carol of the Bells
Owen Parnell: Yonder Star
Erik Parnell: Jingle Bells

Offertory: All Poor Ones and Humble

VU 68 vs 1

**1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.**

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
our service he ne'er can despise;
whose love still is able to show us that stable,
where softly in manger he lies.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Closing Hymn: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VU 8

**1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.**

**2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Go Now in Peace

VU 964

**Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you everywhere,
Everywhere you may go.**