

IMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday in Advent, Year B

PRELUDE

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Joyce Harris

Piano Solo adapted by Thomas Helmore
arranged by Erinn Jarrell Swartz

WELCOME

LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

LEADER: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus.
We worship God with joy in our hearts
as we are reminded of the words the angel said
on that first Christmas day.
“Behold I bring you tidings of great joy
Which will come to all people.”

We light this candle to proclaim the coming
of the light of the world.
With the coming of this light, there is joy,
Joy that is ours, not only at Christmas, but always.

ADVENT WREATH

“Light the Advent Candle”
by Mary Lu Wal

**PEOPLE: O Holy One, as Christmas draws near,
We feel excitement and joy around us.
Still for many this is a sad time.
Help us to have joy
that does not depend on earthly happiness
but on you. Help us to be filled with your joy. Amen**

CALL TO WORSHIP

LEADER: The Promised One of God brings good news
to the oppressed and binds up the brokenhearted.
We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

**PEOPLE: The Promised One of God proclaims liberty
to captives and release to prisoners.**

LEADER: We are witnesses to the light of Christ!

**PEOPLE: The Promised One of God comforts all
who mourn and gives a mantle of praise
instead of a faint spirit.**

**LEADER: Rejoicing always, praying without ceasing,
holding fast to what is good,
we are witnesses to the light of Christ!**

GATHERING PRAYER

**We thank you, O God, for all those in Scripture who have pointed to Christ:
for your prophets Elijah and Isaiah, for other prophets, and for John.**

**We thank you, too, for those in our lives who have pointed us to Christ:
pastors and teachers, strangers and friends.**

**Give us eyes to see him today among those who are oppressed,
imprisoned, brokenhearted, or beaten down,
and we will give our testimony, too:**

how Christ releases and sets free;

how he turns ashes into garlands;

how he repairs and builds up what was ruined.

We, too, will point others to Jesus, the Light of the world. Amen.

OPENING HYMN #148CH “O Come All Ye Faithful”

*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.*

*Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

SOLO

“There is a Child”
By Don Besig and Nancy Price

Jeanne Kapciak

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1: 46b -55

⁴⁶ *And Mary said, “My soul doth magnify the Lord,*

⁴⁷ *And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.*

⁴⁸ *For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.*

⁴⁹ *For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.*

⁵⁰ *And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.*

⁵¹ *He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.*

⁵² *He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.*

⁵³ *He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.*

⁵⁴ *He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;*

⁵⁵ *As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.”*

SERMON

“A Pentecostal Moment:
Mary’s Song of Praise”

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

HYMN #106

“My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise”

*My heart sings out in joyful praise to God who raises me.
Who came to me when I was low and changed my destiny.
The Holy One, the Living God, is always full of grace,
To those who seek the Makers will in every time and place.*

*The promise made in ages past at last has come to be,
For God has come in power to save, to set all people free,
Remembering those who wait and see salvation’s drawing day,*

Our Savior comes to all who weep to wipe their tears away.

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory: "Sanctuary"
by John Thompson and Randy Scruggs

Prayer of Dedication

**Gracious God, teach us to give thanks in all circumstances,
for you are always with us.
Thank you for the privilege of sharing what we have with others,
of giving ourselves away in love,
and of receiving the gifts that others share with us.
With our whole being, spirit and soul and body, we rejoice in you.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN #132

"Joy to the World"

*Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
Let earth its praises bring;
Let every heart, prepare Christ room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks hills and plain
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*Christ rules the world, with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of God's righteousness
And wonders of God's love,
And wonders of God's love
And wonders, wonders of God's love.*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Diapason Movement"

Joyce Harris

By John Keeble

Special Thanks to All the Participants in Today's Service

Joyce Harris

Organist/ Pianist

Dr. Oliver Lawrence

Videographer

Jeanne Kapciak

Soloist

Rev. Merlyn Lawrence

Senior Pastor