

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

Ronna Davie, organ; Anna Pak, flute
Advent Prelude for Organ and Flute Charles Callahan

Greeting

*Advent Candle Lighting

Debbie O'Driscoll and Gifty Bentum-Asante

One: No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming: With joy we will draw water from the wells of salvation; with joy we will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Many: Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

One: We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

Light the third candle of the Advent wreath.

*Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

UMH 196

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Praise Songs

I Have Joy in My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...

Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.

I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Common Prayer (*unison*)

Eternal Creator, with you each moment of life is full of wonder and surprise. We pray you to make us watchful as we await the coming of Christ. Grant that we may not be found sleeping in sin, but awake and rejoicing in your newness of life. Through the same Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Children's Time (see last page)

Rhianna Burke

First Lesson

Isaiah 12:2-6

David Potts

Anthem

First Song of Isaiah

Choirs and Congregation

Jack Noble White

The congregation is asked to join the choir singing this refrain after each verse is sung:

ISAIAH 12: 2-6*

JACK NOBLE WHITE

Slow

Sure-ly, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be a - fraid. For the
 Lord is my strong-hold and my sure de-fense, and he will be my Sav - ior.

VERSE

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
 from the springs of salvation.
 And on that day you shall say,
 Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

REFRAIN

VERSE

Make his deeds known among the peoples;
 see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things,
 and this is known in all the world.

REFRAIN

VERSE

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion,
 ring out your joy,
 For the great one in the midst of you
 is the Holy One of Israel.

REFRAIN (sung twice)

**From The Draft Proposed Book of Common Prayer. Copyright 1976 by Charles Mortimer Gullbert as Custodian of the Standard Book of Common Prayer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.*

Second Lesson

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Judith Barton

Hymn

Hail to the Lord's Anointed

UMH 203 (Stz 1 & 3)

Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son!
Hail in the time appointed, his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression, to set the captive free;
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.

He shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth;
love, joy, and hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.
Before him, on the mountains, shall peace, the herald, go,
and righteousness, in fountains, from hill to valley flow.

Third Lesson

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Desmond Cheetham

Anthem

I Am with You

Chancel Choir
Craig Courtney (cf. 20th c.)

I, the Lord your God, am mighty to save,
I will take great delight in you. I will quiet you with my love.
I will rejoice over you with singing. I am with you.

Fourth Lesson

Philippians 4:4-7

Evans Quayson

Hymn

Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart

UMH 160 (Stz 1,3,5)

Rejoice, ye pure in heart; rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
your glorious banner wave on high, the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.

Yes, on through life's long path, still chanting as ye go;
from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. [Refrain]

Praise God who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God forevermore. [Refrain]

The Offering

Offertory Music

Christmas Is with Us

Ghanaian Choir
Emmanuel K. B, Arthur

Christmas is with us, join the celebration, It's a time to rejoice, rejoice my brother, my sister,
rejoice, rejoice, come and share our jubilation. Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you,
Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.

Merry Christmas to you, Merry Christmas to you, to you my Brother, to you my Sister, Oh, Oh,
Merry Christmas to you. Over land, over sea, Merry Christmas to you.

We will keep the good and discard the bad. We have lived to see another year and we will
celebrate it very well.

*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Passing of Peace

“Shalom”

Mensah Essilfie

God’s peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

Fifth Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-6

Hubert Orofino

Hymn

Blessed Be the God of Israel

UMH 209 (Stz 1 &2)

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free,
who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

Now from the house of David a child of grace is given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.

*Sixth Lesson

Luke 3:7-18

Rev. Byungmoo Lee

Anthem

Prepare the Way of the Lord

Chancel Choir
Pat Mesnick

Prepare the way for the Lord, for he comes!
Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low,
The crooked straight, the rough places plain.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 1:26 –35, 38

Danielle Ferdinand

Anthem

The White Dove

Chancel Choir
Johannes Brahms

A snow white dove from heaven flew down to the earth,
In angel form it greeted a Maid of lowly birth,
With peace and joy its tidings filled her breast,
For she, above all women, would be for ever blest.
Kyrie eleison.

The gates of heaven would open, the angel then did tell,
And Christ our Blest Redeemer would deign on earth to dwell;
The Holy Babe who lay her arms within,
Should be the promised Saviour to purge the world from sin.
Kyrie eleison.

And when our life is ended, on Thee will we call,
The Son of Holy Mary, who died to save us all;
In mercy hear us when we cry to Thee,
From fear of death's dark angel,
O Jesus, set us free.
Kyrie eleison.

Anthem

Christmas Day

Ghanaian Choir

Ohene Adu-Nti

Long time ago in Bethlehem, the star was shining bright to announce the birth of the newborn King of Kings in a stable. He was born. There was glory all around as the angels sung their new song to the King.

It was joy, joy, joy on that day. The wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace was born on Christmas day.

Chorus:

Christmas day, Christmas day. O what joy it brought to the world. Christmas day, Christmas day, when the King of glory was born. It was joy, great joy, great joy on that day, the wonderful joy, wonderful joy on that day, wonderful Counsellor Prince of Peace was born. Jesus Christ was born on Christmas day. Kind of Kings, Prince of Peace was born.

While Shepherds watched their flocks by night, they were seated on the ground and the Angel of the Lord brought glory all around. He said peace be unto you! Good tidings of great joy. I bring to you and all mankind unto us the news of joy is clear, the wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace is here with us today.

Announcements

*Hymn

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

UMH 718

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

The dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears;
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture,
gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thy eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everlasting God, come down!

*Benediction

Postlude

Toccata on "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Matthew McConnell

Jesus Jingle (Bells)

(To the tune of "Jingle Bells".)

CHORUS:

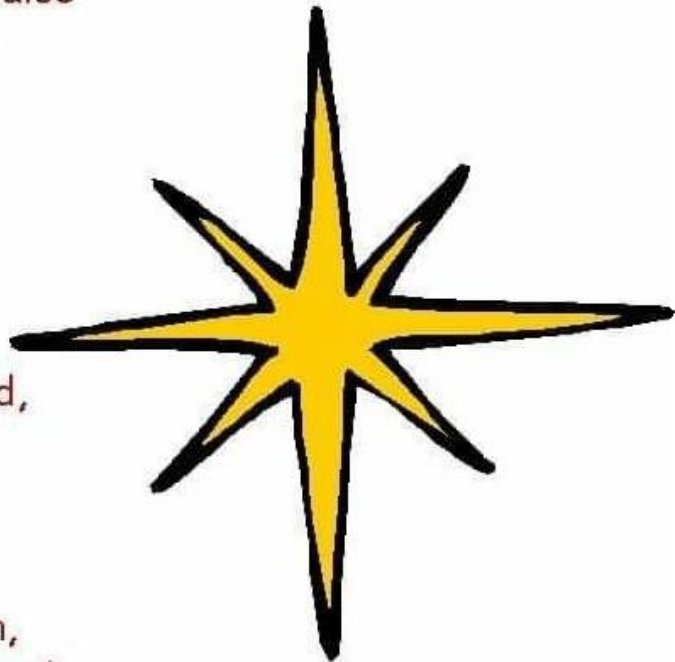
Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh what fun to sing and praise
Our Savior born today-ay!

Jingle bells, Jingle bells,
Listen while we say,
Jesus came into my heart
And washed my sins away!

1. To shepherds in the field,
An angel came to say,
That Jesus Christ is born,
In Bethlehem today!

The shepherds ran to town,
They hurried down the street,
And when they found the Son of God
They worshipped at his feet!
Oh ...

CHORUS



Worship Leaders: Judith Barton, Gifty Bentum-Asante, Rhianna Burke, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Danielle Ferdinand, Chris Kerns, Byungmoo Lee, Debbie O'Driscoll, Hubert Orofino, Anna Pak, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Evans Quayson, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Advent Candle Lighting – The United Methodist Church Discipleship Ministries, by Lisa Hancock.

Common Prayer - Reprinted by permission of the publisher from *Touch Holiness*, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi.
Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.

OneLicense Reprint + Livestream and Podcast/Recording License A-726657
CCLI Copyright License # 20653706 CCLI Streaming License #20653696