



## Third Sunday of Advent Worship Gathering December 12, 2021

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[www.LCRonline.org](http://www.LCRonline.org)

Ministers, People of LCR

Pastor, The Rev. Nicole Schwalbe

Music Director, Ms. Xiaojing Chang

A Welcoming Community Making Christ Known Through Worship and Service

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,  
who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you.**

**We fail in believing that your good news is for us.**

**We falter in our call to tend your creation.**

**We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves.**

**We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love.**

**Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✙ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

#### LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH Week 3: Joy

The first candle on the Advent wreath is for hope and the second is for peace. The third candle we light is for joy. Advent is a season of waiting. Even as we wait for the fulfillment of all God's good plans, we find joy in the work of God all around us. The Spirit calls us to joy in our vocations- paid and unpaid work, relationships, and service. We find joy in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We cherish the joy of Mary and Joseph, of Elizabeth and Zechariah, of the shepherds and the angels, and of the whole creation.

*Light the candle*

**Holy and compassionate God, your faithfulness in all things produces the harvest of our joy. We rejoice in You, always. Even in our seasons of doubt and darkness, we can find joy in the presence of Christ in our neighbors and the witness of the Holy Spirit in creation. Stir up our holy joy, that we may share it with all whom we encounter for the sake of Your gospel. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

**O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL (verse 1)**

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

**PSALM: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not <sup>1</sup> be afraid,  
for the LORD God is my strength and my might, and has become <sup>1</sup> my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you <sup>1</sup> will draw water  
from the wells <sup>1</sup> of salvation. R**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call <sup>1</sup> on God's name;  
make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name <sup>1</sup> is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done <sup>1</sup> gloriously;  
let this be known in <sup>1</sup> all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O <sup>1</sup> royal Zion,  
for great in your midst is the Holy <sup>1</sup> One of Israel. R

**Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

<sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?"

<sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn

with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

## SERMON

### Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for  
2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -  
3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when  
4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for  
man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is  
all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so  
dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.  
qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;  
qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.  
crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -  
mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and  
kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to  
won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and  
sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and

lives now in - side us for - ev - er.  
shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.  
weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.  
bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

**Offering** – In addition to monetary offerings, please share any offerings of God moving in your life and the world.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Response: Your Mercy is Great.

## OFFERING PRAYER

*What Feast of Love - Verse 1*

1 What feast of love is offered here,  
what banquet come from heaven?  
What food of everlasting life,  
what gracious gift is given?  
This, this is Christ the king,  
the bread come down from heaven.  
Oh, taste and see and sing!  
How sweet the manna given!

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with You.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right....

## 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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

Be people of joy. Let joy live in your heart and share the joy of Christ with all you meet.

Share joy by seeing the good in each other. Share joy by remembering good times and hoping for good times to come. Share joy by praying for our world. May the Lord Bless you and Keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**The flowers today are given in honor of Katherine Nelligan**

**Please join us for our Christmas Eve Worship at 4pm & 6pm**