



Online Worship Resource (Sunday, December 11, 2022)

Third Sunday of Advent

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **ON JORDON'S BANK the BAPTIST'S CRY** Arr. H. Hopson

*On Jordon's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearten, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!*

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome and Announcements

Musical Call to Worship: "Oh, Come, Little Children"

Performed by the Calvary Women's Chorus. Guest soloist: Diya Kapoor

Please remain seated and join me in our Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

The Prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of coming into God's presence. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy as the destination.

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus. It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. . . . A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way. . . . It shall be for God's people. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall be no more." (Isaiah 35:1-2, 8, 10).

We light these candles, the candles of joyous hope, of proclaimed peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because God's presence is both destination and joyous journey.

Opening Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Call to Confession

(Liturgist)

In Jesus Christ our Lord the grace of God has appeared, bringing light to us all. With confidence and joy, let us confess our sin. Please pray with me. . .

Prayer of Confession

Faithful God, we confess that we have not led lives of holiness. We suffer from impatience, apathy, self-centeredness, and greed; we have not been at peace with you, ourselves, or one another. Forgive us, Lord, for choosing to walk in darkness, unwilling to see what your light exposes and the changes that are needed. We repent and turn to you in love, asking you to have mercy on us.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, good news! Great joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

The light of God's forgiveness shines into our hearts! Glory to God in the heavens, and on earth, peace! Amen.

Response: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Refrain)

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Celebrating Barbara Allen's Ministry

Time with Children

Special Music:

'O Holy Night'

Erika Rissi, soloist

Prayer for Illumination

(Liturgist)

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

Holy God, giver of life and light, as your word is read and proclaimed, illumine our hearts and minds, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, our lives may reflect your glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

(Liturgist)

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.
³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Shine Your Light!

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Special Music: "Let Light Shine Out of Darkness"

Calvary Men's Chorus

Hymn after Sermon: “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning. Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing. Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together, he opens wide the heavenly door and lives now inside us forever.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing; as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring. Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder, the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night. Though dark the winter and cheerless, the rising sun shall crown you with light; be strong and loving and fearless. Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story; may God fill every day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Call for offering (Liturgist)

At this time of year, the abundance of some and the needs of so many stand in marked contrast. Thank you for your generosity, that through the ministries of this church, we may tend to the needs of our neighbors near and far. Please pray with me our prayer of dedication:

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, accept our gifts, we pray, as we wait in hope for your coming again. Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light into every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace. In Christ's name. Amen.

Prayers of the People and 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.

Closing Hymn: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude: **OH COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL** Arr. Fred Bock
 Duet for piano and organ

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, Director of Music,
David Maley, pianist, Diya Kapoor, Guest Soloist, Jeremy Rissi, cello,
Rachel Jelsma, trumpet, Vallerie Pringle, xylophone,
Calvary's Men's and Women's Chorus,
Ernest Amankwah, liturgist, and
Whitney Roberts Patlan, technology team