

Sunday December 14, 2025 10:00 A.M.

Third Sunday of Advent
A Service of Joy

We're so pleased that you've come to worship with us this morning. While this bulletin is a guide to the service, if you are unfamiliar with the ritual customs of the Anglican Church, simply relax with the liturgy and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship. After the service please join us downstairs for coffee, tea, and juice.

(Congregational participation in **BOLD**)

Greeting/Land Acknowledgement

HYMN # 100 Comfort, Comfort O My People
(Blue Book)

We gather together in this place:
prophets and dreamers, singers and poets,
we who dare to imagine a world renewed;
we who dare to dream God's dream.
We sing with Elizabeth and Mary.
Our spirits rejoice in God, our savior!
We bless the God of justice and joy,
who lifts up the lowly and vulnerable.
God's mercy is upon us all,
from generation to generation.

Come and worship, all you who dream and wait.
We have come to wonder and praise.

Collect
God of surprises,
you interrupt our world
with joy and hope beyond our wildest dreams.
When we feel forgotten or despair,
bless us with your holy joy.
When our world feels barren,
bless us with the gift of possibility.
We pray as people of deep faith,
entrusting ourselves and our world to the holy unknown,
brought to birth in Jesus, our light and life. **Amen.**

Advent 3 Candle Lighting
The birth of Jesus has been told and retold a thousand times and in a thousand ways.

Its impact cannot be contained in any one perspective. But who is telling the story changes how we hear it, how we imagine it, how we experience it.
We light the candle of hope because hope creates a path for a new, unknown story to unfold.

Light the first candle.

We light the candle of peace because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.

Light the second candle

Close your eyes for a moment…
…but to strengthen God's people to bear a world that is not right.

Today, we also light the candle of joy because joy sustains us in the midst of uncertainty.

Light the third candle.

First Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11
Reader: Barb Brydges
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church
Thanks be to God

PSALM HYMN # 363 My Soul Proclaims Your Glory, Lord
(Blue Book)

The Gospel Reading: (*standing*)
God be with you
And also with you
The Good News of Jesus Christ according to Luke
People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ
The Gospel Reading: Luke 1: 39-55
Reader: Deacon Lynne Smith
The Gospel of Christ
People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ
Elizabeth Narrative: *Elizabeth McLennan*

Homily- *The Rev. Carolyn Herold*
Prayers of the People – *Lynne Smith*
Response*:*
Gracious God,
may we be bearers of joy, carrying good news, blessing one another for this journey we share.

Confession
Answering the invitation of God,
who loves justice and promises us mercy, let us confess our sin.
God of joy,
you created this world for joy and flourishing.
We confess that we construct barriers

to protect our happiness, even at the expense of others.
We fill ourselves with good things,
taking no heed of those who are left empty.
We ignore oppression when it benefits our interests.
We dismiss the broken hearted when we feel inconvenienced.
We crave power over liberation.
Remember us in compassion and come to our aid.
Tear down our dividing walls.
Scatter our pride and reawaken the imagination of our hearts.
Lead us again in the work of repair and restoration.
We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The Peace

OFFERTORY HYMN # 120 My Soul Cries Out
Vs. 1,3 & 4 (*Red Book)*

Prayer over the Gifts

Invitation to the Table

Eucharistic Prayer
Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you
Celebrant: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.
People: We lift them up to God.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.
People: It is right to offer thanks and praise

Celebrant: It is a joyous occasion, ….
… join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest x2

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Blessed is he who comes in the names of the Lord.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of pow'r and might;
Heav'n and earth of your glory are full.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest

Celebrant: Holy are you, …
…mystery of our faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Celebrant: Send your Spriit upon us, …
…now and forever.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Meditation on the Lord's Prayer
In awe we come to You again,
You, whose name remains
beyond all naming.
May your will be our will,
Your peace be peace on earth,
and what is broken in our lives
be forgiven and made right.
Grant us today the bread of Your fields.
From the labour of our days
may Your love be the yield
For You are, have been, and
always will be, our source,
our end, our soul's delight. *Juleta Severson-Baker*

The gifts of God for the people of God
Thanks be to God

Chant # 47 Born in Human Likeness *(Red Book)*

THE COMMUNION

Communion Music:
by Corinne MacLean and Donna Ruaparell

The Prayer after Communion

Affirmation of Joy
Let us affirm God's gift of life-giving and justice seeking joy.
We believe "joy is the justice we give ourselves."
Because God's joy dwells with the humble and is rooted in justice, it shines brightest through shared witness and sacred disruption.
We believe joy grows through blessing others and fostering authentic relationships.
We believe joy is more than a feeling: Joy is our faith made visible.
We believe joy is truth and truth-telling.
We believe joy is Spirit-filled solidarity, and the bringing of God's dream.
We believe true joy is not the opposite of heartache, but lives within the swirl of our grief and hardest emotions.
Joy celebrates what God is birthing now, even amid a world where so much appears to be ending. We believe joy is freedom and healing, redemption and return.
God's joy shows up in breathtaking beauty and in moments we hurt so much we can't breathe.
We choose hope. We choose love.
We choose each other. We choose joy.

Announcements

HYMN: O God of Every Longing
(See Insert)

The Dismissal