



PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIGHTING THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE

The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness.

Its light reminds us of Jesus, the light of the world. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:4-5)

Today we relight the first two candles of the Advent wreath. The candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE.

Now we light the third candle of Advent. This is the candle of JOY.

As the coming of Jesus our Savior draws nearer, our joy builds with our anticipation of his birth.

From the Book of Isaiah we read the words of our Lord:

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest." —Isaiah 9:2-3

And with Mary we sing:

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." —Luke 1:47

Let us pray:

We rejoice in you, O Lord, because you keep your promises. Deepen our joy as we wait, and help us to hear your good news as you fill our lives with your loving Spirit. Amen.

HYMN #107 *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

**God of joy,
we rejoice in the reality of who you are,
and we live within the joy of your love for us.
Our contentment comes and goes,
our happiness ebbs and flows.
Our feelings depend upon our circumstances,
our physical health, our brain chemistry.
But our joy is deeply rooted
in our identity as your beloved children.
For that, and much more, we give you thanks.
Amen.**

RESPONSE #314 *Joy to the World*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

**God, our Light and Salvation,
forgive us for those moments
when we have walked in darkness,
stumbling in the dim light
of the world's despair,
of quarrels and division and bickering.
Renew us in joy and strengthen us in peace,
that our light may shine
and become a beacon of hope for others.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—from Isaiah 40:1

“Comfort, comfort now my people, says your God.”

Beloved, know this:
Your sins are forgiven.
The Lord, Emmanuel, abides with you.
The peace announced by the angels is at hand.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Luke 1:46-55
Isaiah 9:2-7

MESSAGE Salvation

HYMN #100 *Canticle of the Turning*

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.*

HYMN #80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*
(sung through twice)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” John
20:21

