

December 11, 2022

9:15 AM Common Thread Worship

The third Sunday of Advent focuses on joy. "Rejoice in the Lord always," says the apostle Paul (Philippians 4:4). With gladness, we welcome you to worship.



Welcome

Song – Hymn of Joy

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, Your Love has come here to dwell.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and Heav'n reflect Thy rays.
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in Thee!
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel, Your Love has come here to dwell.

Henry Van Dyke, Ludwig Van Beethoven, Chris Tomplin and Ed Cash.

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Sharing Peace

Advent Reading

Chris, Lori, Holli & Lilli Bradley

Leader: The prophet Isaiah tells us about the joy of ascending to God's house. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then he tells us that the journey to get there is just as much a joy. In Luke, Mary sings a song of joy as she learns and accepts that she is going to be the Mother of the Son of God. We light these candles, the candles of hope, of peace, and of deep and everlasting joy, as a sign that we are those who walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. We are ascending to God's promise.

ALL: Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Children's Message

Prayer Time & Lord's Prayer

(To share your joys and concerns, please email them to prayerrequests@stjamesraleigh.org, where they will then be shared with our Prayer Chain.)

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. Amen.

Song – Mary, Did You Know?

Sheila DeBastiani, soloist

Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene ©1991 Word Music, Inc. and Rufus Music. CCLI#1374588

Scripture Reading – Luke 1: 46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.

Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

Message – Unspeakable Joy

Song – Offering

The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love; there is no shadow in Your presence. No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne, before the Holy One of Heaven. It's only by Your blood, and it's only through Your mercy, Lord, I come.

I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord I bring an offering to You.

I bring an offering of worship to my King.
No one on earth deserves the praise that I sing.
Jesus, may You receive the honor that You're due;
O Lord, I bring an offering to You. O Lord, I bring an offering to You.

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Blessing & Sending Out

Sharing Offerings

Out to Discipleship, and Into the World to Serve

Calendar this week:

TODAY, 12/11 Backpack Buddies Packing, 10:10AM in Carson Hall following Common Thread worship
Kids Club, 4PM in Carson Hall
SPRC Meeting, 4PM in the Library
St. James Youth, 4PM in Montague Hall
Finance Committee Meeting, 6PM in Room 12
NA, 7PM in Saints Hall*

Mon, 12/12 GS Troop 4331, 6:30PM in Montague Hall

*Tues, 12/13 Library Committee, 9AM in the Library
Staff Meeting, 10AM in Office
Congregational Care Meeting, 6PM in*

Wed, 12/14 Choir Rehearsal, 6PM in Sanctuary

*Thurs, 12/15 **Deadline to return Angel Tree presents!***
Continuing Strummers, 6PM in Music Room
Common Thread Band Rehearsal, 7PM in Carson Hall*

*Sat, 12/17 Produce Packing, 9AM in Carson Hall
Youth Christmas Party, 5-7PM in Montague Hall*

*Sunday, 12/18 **Living Nativity, 4-6PM on church grounds/parking lots****

What to know this week...

*** Backpack Buddies Help Needed:** We will be assembling Backpack Buddies bags today in Carson Hall immediately after Common Thread worship. No experience or sign-up necessary, just join us and we'll explain everything!

***2022 Angel Tree:** All presents should be wrapped with receipts enclosed and returned to the church by Thursday! Please contact Anita Robinson Christmas (apchristmas@yahoo.com or 919-760-9876) if you have any questions.

***Volunteers needed for the Living Nativity:** The 2022 Living Nativity is NEXT SUNDAY, 4-6PM. We still need cast members and set-up/clean-up crews to make this an outstanding event for our community. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/2022LiveNativity> to sign up! Help us advertise by inviting all your friends, neighbors and co-workers!

Christmas Post Office: Don't forget to check the Post Office in the church lobby to see if you have holiday mail! We'd like the majority of cards to be picked up by Christmas Eve to save postage. Please remember we're accepting donations for those cards that will need to be mailed: just place contributions in the labeled box.

Christmas Eve Luminaries: The United Women of Faith (formerly UMW) are selling luminaries to decorate St. James' walkways 4:30-8:30PM on Christmas Eve. Luminaries cost \$3 each any may be purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Deadline to order is December 18; [order forms](#) are available in the weekly email, on the Welcome Center counter, and in the back of both worship spaces. Completed orders can be dropped into worship offering plates or the office door-drop with payment made to UMW.

Volunteer to work concessions at PNC Arena! This is a fundraiser for our church and an opportunity to be in fellowship with church friends! All concessions volunteers will need to wear the new sapphire blue St. James UMC t-shirt. We have a number of events from December through early April available, including NC State basketball games and Hurricanes hockey matches. To see the schedule of events and volunteer, use the link <http://tinyurl.com/PNCVolunteers>.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Worship Times: We will offer 2 Christmas Eve worship services: the 5PM Common Thread service will be held in Carson Hall, with options to sit in cars or on the patio (weather permitting) for those who choose to do so. The 7PM traditional service will be held in the sanctuary. Both services will feature Holy Communion and candle-lighting. On Christmas Day, we will offer one combined service at 10AM in the sanctuary, with no discipleship classes meeting that Sunday. New Year's Day we'll worship together again in a 10AM combined service in Carson Hall.

Military Ministry donations still needed: We still need books of Forever stamps, blank note cards, and medium/large package envelopes. The collection box remains on the counter of the Welcome Center off the lobby. We also need updated names/ mailing addresses for those in the military to receive packages. Please send that info to theriqdas@yahoo.com and voverton1@gmail.com.

Bread Ministry location: We've officially moved the bread to the hallway counter behind Carson Hall on Sunday mornings. Please use gloves to take whatever you like, and leave your donations in the marked box on the counter. Thanks for supporting the Bread Ministry!