



**St. James United Methodist Church**  
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December 11, 2022  
11:00 AM Sanctuary 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.

**Prelude – *And Therefore Be Merry***

Anne Leyland & Kim Hagan, violins

arr. Brian Joyce © 1996 Latham Music, Ltd.

Michael Castelo, viola

Timothy Holley, cello

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Advent Reading**

Brian and Jennifer Hodge, Ben & Alex Sherman

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!**

**Hymn – *Once in Royal David’s City***

UMH 250

**Doxology**

*During Advent, our Doxology text will be sung to the tune of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;**

**Praise him above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Prayer Time and Lord’s Prayer**

*(Please use the prayer cards in the pews to share your prayer concerns. You may place prayer cards in the prayer box near the altar rail.)*

**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.**

**Reading – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Helen McGee

**Anthem – O Come, Emmanuel**

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

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

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Desire of Nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

arr. Stan Pethel ©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation.

**Reading – Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9**

Linda Tomlinson

**Anthem – Advent Prayer**

*Refrain:* How will we know Him, Lord? How will we know?

We will seek in the night; we will watch for a sign,  
but how will we know Him, Lord?

Seek in the radiance of hope and of peace; seek in the bright flame of joy;  
seek in the light and the goodness of love, but seek Him first in your heart. (*Refrain*)

Know Him in the radiance of hope and peace; know Him in the bright flame of joy;  
know Him in the light and the goodness of love, but know Him first in your heart.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Joy of ev'ry longing heart!

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus: there's room in my heart for Thee.

William Sisson ©1992 Wesleyan Music Press/Sunburst Music Co.

**Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a**

Mary Ellen Mauney

**Anthem – Will We Know Him?**

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem to be born in a lowly stall?

Are we ready to greet the tiny little King who will come to save us all?

Are we ready for the star of Bethlehem to appear in the winter sky?  
Are we ready to follow anywhere it leads, and let its light fill all our lives?

*Refrain:* Prepare ye the way for the King of Glory; once again proclaim the wondrous story. God will send His own true Son...but will we know Him when He comes?

Are we ready for the song of Bethlehem to declare our Savior's birth?  
Are we ready to join the angels as they sing, and spread the news to all on earth?  
(*Refrain*)

Are we ready for the Babe of Bethlehem, God's true and promised Son?  
Are we ready to greet the tiny little King...and will we know Him when He comes?

Don Besig & Nancy Price ©1987 Harold Flammer, Inc./Shawnee Press.

**Reading – Luke 1:26-35, 38**

Pam Buckland

***Anthem – A Place Called Bethlehem***

Dan Baer, soloist

It seems such a common place, an ordinary town,  
but here God would send His grace, as heav'nly love came down;  
and a ruler He would be, filled with pow'r and majesty;  
and it happened in a place called Bethlehem.

Little town of glory, little town where angels sing,  
in a stable lowly, born the Savior, Christ the King!  
Things will never be the same, as the heavens did proclaim,  
that the promised Christ was born in Bethlehem.

With so many gathered there, with no room in the inn,  
but God had his love to share, a mission to begin.  
And Redeemer He would be, as foretold in prophecy,  
and it happened in a place called Bethlehem.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the Everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Stan Pethel ©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation

**Reading – Luke 2: 8-20**

Linda Davenport

### **Anthem – How Great Our Joy!**

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright:  
how great our joy! Joy, joy joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem, a Child today:  
how great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

Great joy, joy! Join with the angels, singing, "Joy, joy in Bethlehem!"  
Joy, joy! This Child from heaven brings us joy, joy in Bethlehem!

This Gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill:  
how great our joy! Joy, joy, joy! Praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!

arr. Stan Pethel ©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation.

### **Responsive Reading**

Mary Ellen Mauney

Leader: Hear the Good News of great joy! Let the heavens sing out the news!

**All: Let the earth reply: joy to the world!**

Leader: Hear the Good News of God's redeeming love! A newborn child sleeps  
in a manger!

**All: Let the earth reply: joy to the world!**

Leader: Hear the Good News of the promise of peace! Peace on earth. Peace among  
all people!

**All: Let the heavens sing out the news, and let the earth reply: joy to the world!**

### **Anthem – The Lord Is Come**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold.  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men," from heaven's all gracious King.  
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

arr. Stan Pethel ©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation.

### **Reading – John 1: 9, Isaiah 49:13**

Helen McGee

### **Anthem – The Glory of Christmas**

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light, and usher in the morning.  
O shepherds, shrink not with afright, but hear the angel's warning.  
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,  
the pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Good Christians come, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today.  
Man and beast before Him bow, and He is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today.

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come let us adore Him...Jesus Christ the Lord!  
Christ is born!

arr. Stan Pethel ©1998 Hal Leonard Corporation.

**Hymn – *Hail to the Lord's Anointed***

*UMH 203, st. 1, 2, 4*

**Closing Prayer**

**Blessing & Sending Out**

**Out to Serve in the World**

**Postlude -- *Ding Dong, Merrily on High***

arr. Kenneth Abeling ©2014 Lincoln Music Publications

Thanks to our wonderful choir for this special musical celebration of Christmas!

Michael J. Glasgow, director

Sue King, accompanist

SOPRANOS

Susan Curtin  
Sheila DeBastiani  
Amber Hitchcock  
Sonia Jarrett  
Claudia LeBarron  
Vicki Overton  
Karen Owens  
Linda Sparks

ALTOS

Carolyn Bishop  
Alice Jones  
Jolene Miedema  
Sharon Nelson  
Judy Rhodes

TENORS

Dan Baer, Jr.  
Mike Buckland  
Mike Hast

BASSES

Shan Biggers  
Julian Bridgers  
Joe Rhodes  
Tom Ward

The flowers in worship today are given to the glory of God by Brenda Robertson  
in honor of Edith & Sam Owens' 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

### **What to know this week...**

#### **Calendar this week:**

TODAY, 12/11 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, 5PM in Montague Hall

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

**\*2022 Angel Tree:** All presents should be wrapped with receipts enclosed and returned to the church by Thursday! Please contact Anita Robinson Christmas ([aprchristmas@yahoo.com](mailto:aprchristmas@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 in the Christmas box.

**Christmas Eve Luminaries:** The United Women of Faith (formerly UMW) will again be 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 [therigdas@yahoo.com](mailto:therigdas@yahoo.com) and [voverton1@gmail.com](mailto: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!