

ADVENT 3 SUNDAY

December 13, 2020

Organ Prelude: In Sweetest Joy by Dietrich Buxtehude

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

CALL TO WORSHIP:

“And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour...’” (Luke 1:46-47)

We gather for worship in order to open our hearts to magnify and rejoice in a larger goodness whom we name God.

We gather for worship to discover such goodness, often hidden beneath so much that is fearful and uncertain these days.

We gather for worship because we want to feel authentic gratitude, joy and an empowerment to be more alive than ever.

Meet us wherever we are, Oh power of love. Resurrect new life in us past all those ways we feel overwhelmed and overpowered as victims.

Fill us with new energy to sing and to laugh, to weep and to feel for others in ways that plant seeds of new life.

You can do all things past anything we may question or doubt, O Ground of our being... Reveal yourself to us this hour! Fill us with joy!

Lighting of the third Advent Candle – the candle of joy

**(Hymn 119, v.3) Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the saviour is born.**

When God is a child there’s joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Hymn: “To a maid whose name was Mary”

No. 130

1. To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.

“Fear not,” the angel told her.

“I come to bring good news:
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.

2. "For you are highly favoured
by God the Lord of all,
who even now is with you.
You are on earth most blest;
you are most blest, most blessed;
God chose you, you are blest!"

3. But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message,
it troubled her to hear,

4. "Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,

God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high."

5. "How shall this be?" said Mary,
"I am not yet a wife."
The angel answered quickly,
"The power of the Most High
will come upon you shortly,
your child shall be God's child."

6. As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready
according to your word."

Prayer of Approach, Confession & 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 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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Peace of Christ be with you all;
And also with you.

Children's Theme for Church School

Special Music: Mary, did you know?

words by Mark Lowry, music by Buddy Green

soloist Caleb McCarroll-Butler with Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Chris Tanaka-Mann and pianist Bruce Nasmith

Scripture Readings: Psalm 74, Luke 1:46-55

Psalm 74

1 O God, why do you cast us off for ever?

Why does your anger smoke against the sheep of your pasture?

2 Remember your congregation, which you acquired long ago,
which you redeemed to be the tribe of your heritage.

Remember Mount Zion, where you came to dwell.

- 3 Direct your steps to the perpetual ruins;
the enemy has destroyed everything in the sanctuary.
- 4 Your foes have roared within your holy place;
they set up their emblems there.
- 5 At the upper entrance they hacked
the wooden trellis with axes.
- 6 And then, with hatchets and hammers,
they smashed all its carved work.
- 7 They set your sanctuary on fire;
they desecrated the dwelling-place of your name,
bringing it to the ground.
- 8 They said to themselves, 'We will utterly subdue them';
they burned all the meeting-places of God in the land.
- 9 We do not see our emblems;
there is no longer any prophet,
and there is no one among us who knows how long.
- 10 How long, O God, is the foe to scoff?
Is the enemy to revile your name for ever?
- 11 Why do you hold back your hand;
why do you keep your hand in your bosom?
- 12 Yet God my King is from of old,
working salvation in the earth.
- 13 You divided the sea by your might;
you broke the heads of the dragons in the waters.
- 14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan;
you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
- 15 You cut openings for springs and torrents;
you dried up ever-flowing streams.
- 16 Yours is the day, yours also the night;
you established the luminaries and the sun.
- 17 You have fixed all the bounds of the earth;
you made summer and winter.
- 18 Remember this, O LORD, how the enemy scoffs,
and an impious people reviles your name.
- 19 Do not deliver the soul of your dove to the wild animals;
do not forget the life of your poor for ever.

20 Have regard for your covenant,
for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.
21 Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame;
let the poor and needy praise your name.
22 Rise up, O God, plead your cause;
remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.
23 Do not forget the clamour of your foes,
the uproar of your adversaries that goes up continually.

Luke 1. 46-55

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
48 for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
49 for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
50 His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
51 He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
53 he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
54 He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

We are listening, O God;

Speak to us!

Sermon:

EMPOWERED TO BE

Dr. Harris

Special Music: "Christmas Lullaby" from "Songs for a New World"

Jason Robert Brown

soloist Erin Stone with pianist Bruce Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

Hymn: "My soul gives glory to my God"

No. 123

1. My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
in many marvelous ways.

2. My God has done great things for me:
yes, holy is this name.
All people will declare me blessed,
and blessing they shall claim.

3. From age to age to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.

4. Love casts the mighty
from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.

5. Praise God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: The Sussex Carol

arranged by Bruce Nasmith

Ministers

Ministers-in Association

Minister Emeritus

Clerk of Session

Administrator & Manager of Community Engagement

Music Director

Parish Nurse Assistant

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The Rev. Dr. Pam McCarroll & The Rev. Rodger Talbot

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