

# ADVENT 3 SUNDAY

December 12, 2021

Organ Prelude: In Dulci Jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude

Welcome, Announcements & Worship Theme

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Advent is here. It is a time of preparation, preparation for the coming of Christ.

**But how do we prepare?**

John the Baptist tells us we prepare by purifying ourselves, becoming transparent before God, and ‘repenting.’

**But John also says that God is love and God is forgiveness. As we open our hearts to come clean we create space in us for God’s forgiveness to heal and make us whole.**

Do you need to repent? Do you need to be forgiven? Do you need to forgive?

**We are here, O God, to find you and to be found by you. We are here to discover inner courage to face truth and take responsibility and the freedom to let go and move on to better ways.**

**Let us worship God together!**

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.**

1. There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
a call from the ways untrod:  
prepare in the desert a highway,  
a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted,  
the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places  
where the Lord our God may go!

3. but the word of our God is steadfast;  
the arm of the Lord is strong;  
God stands in the midst of nations,  
and soon will right the wrong.  
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
the lambs will gently hold,  
to pastures of peace will lead them,  
and bring them safe to the fold.

2. O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
go up to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people  
the coming of their King.  
Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
like grass our works decay,  
the power and pomp of nations  
shall pass like a dream away,

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: O Joyful Children

Mary Huckaby and Les Holdridge

*soloist Anna Bateman*

Scripture Readings: Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 3: 1-14

Malachi 3: 1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you

delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years. Amen.

Luke 3: 1-14

<sup>3</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;

<sup>6</sup> and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' '

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' <sup>12</sup>Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' <sup>13</sup>He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' Amen.

We are listening, O God;  
**Speak to us!**

Sermon:

WHY REPENT? WHY FORGIVE?

Dr. Harris

Special Music: In Dulci Jubilo

14th century German carol

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Pastoral Concern

**\*Hymn: We come to ask your forgiveness**

**No. 201**

**Refrain:**

**We come to ask your forgiveness, O Lord,  
and we seek forgiveness from each other.  
Sometimes we build up walls instead of  
bridges to peace,  
and we ask your forgiveness, O Lord.**

2. For the times when  
we've been rude and selfish,  
for the times when we have been unkind,  
and for the times we refused  
to help our friends in need,  
we ask your forgiveness, O Lord.  
**(Refrain)**

1. Sometimes we hurt  
by what we do to others.  
Sometimes we hurt  
with words that are untrue.  
Sometimes we cause others pain  
by what we fail to do,  
and we ask your forgiveness, O Lord.  
**(Refrain)**

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: Joy to the world

arr. by Bruce Nasmith

*\*Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

*Thank you to Dr. Harris and Rev. Rebecca, our musicians, Bruce Nasmith, Anna Bateman, Erin Stone, Elias Theocharidis, and Christopher Tanaka-Mann, and Kome Abel for operating the sanctuary camera.*

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