



Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship on the Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 6, 2020

Pastor: Bruce Farrell
Ministers: All the Faithful Members

1588 Mount Zion Road, Lebanon, PA 17046 717-865-3286 www.ziongosherts.org

*Please stand if you are able. Congregation, please speak the words in **bold**.

PRELUDE

Ruth Anne Arnold

WELCOME

The ringing of the bell for Dorothy Boyer and to call us to worship

*CALL TO WORSHIP

[Psalm 98; Luke 1:51; Acts 4:12; 2 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 19:28]

Pastor: Come, sing to the Lord a new song for He has done marvelous things.

People: You have made Your salvation known and revealed Your righteousness to the nations. You remember Your love and faithfulness to us.

Pastor: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God – found in no one but Jesus Christ, Your only Child.

People: You have scattered the proud and brought down rulers but have lifted up the humble. You fill the hungry but send the rich away empty.

Pastor: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

People: We will shout for joy before the Lord the King.

Pastor: Let the sea resound – the world, and all who live in it. Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

All: We sing before You, Jesus, for You sit on Your glorious throne, ruling in righteousness and equity.

*HYMN

What Child is This?

**¹ What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**² Why lies He in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!**

**³ So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come peasant, king, to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Joy

We have lit the candles of hope and peace [*Light first two candles.*]. Today, we light the Advent candle of joy. In these difficult times, we remember that God used heavenly visitors and even creation to tell us that He was sending the Savior through an unwed mother into a world of refugees, homeless, poor farmers, magicians, self-obsessed leaders, and even death squads. We give You all the praise that tinsel and Santa and jingle bells are not the end of Your Advent here, but that into this dark world the Savior, Who is Christ the Lord has come. We leap for the joy that this great news brings to all people!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Jesus come for us.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 1:39–55

CONFESSION

Call to Confession

In this time of Advent we would not lose sight of why You came – that we need a Savior because our sins have separated us from You.

Confession

Mostly we are not wont to shout and leap for joy when we hear about You.
More likely, we forget to glorify and rejoice in You, our Savior,
We can be afraid of the filling of the Holy Spirit.
We don't consistently have confidence that You will fulfill your promises to us.
We have been proud. We do not recognize You in others.
We are not always ready and do not always hurry and make trips to do Your will.

Assurance of Pardon

His mercy extends to those who fear Him, from generation to generation... You, the Mighty One have done great things for us. Holy is Your Name!

SONG

Jesus, Name Above All Names

**¹ Jesus, Name above all names. Beautiful Savior, Glorious Lord.
Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.**

**² Jesus, loving Shepherd. Vine of the branches, Son of God.
Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor, Lord of the universe, Light of the world.**

**³ Praise Him, Lord above all lords. King above all kings, God's only Son.
The Prince of Peace, Who by His Spirit comes to live in us, Master and Friend.**

SERMON: Mary Sings

ANTHEM

Ave Maria
Roberto Marti

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[Luke 1:44b, 45, 46, 49-50, 53]

The baby in my womb leapt for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill His promises to her! ... God my Savior, ... the Mighty One, has done great things for me – holy is His Name. His mercy extends to those who fear Him. He has filled the hungry.

PRAYERS for the people and pastoral prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Who is 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

*HYMN

Joy to the World

**¹ Joy to the world! the Lord is come. Let earth receive her King. Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**² Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns. Let all their songs employ while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**³ No more let sin and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground. He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**⁴ He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

BENEDICTION

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE

POSTLUDE

But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Luke 2:10

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Advent Candle Lighting: some concepts from <https://ignatiansolidarity.net/blog/2016/12/21/chains-shall-he-break/>