



# Zion Goshert's United Church of Christ

Worship ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Sunday, December 12, 2021

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 or sing the words in **bold**.

PRELUDE

Tara Zimmerman

WELCOME (Ringing of the Bell)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: Waiting in Joy

Pastor: Come, it is Advent, a season of waiting, of getting ready. What are you waiting for?

**People<sup>L</sup>: Light shines on the righteous and JOY on the upright in heart.**

**People<sup>R</sup>: REJOICE in the LORD, you who are righteous, and praise His holy name.**

Pastor: Where is your JOY?

**People<sup>L</sup>: Sing for JOY to God our strength. Shout aloud to the God of Jacob!**

**People<sup>R</sup>: You make known to me the paths of life. You will fill me with JOY in Your presence.**

Pastor: Joy? Even in pain or questions?

**People<sup>L</sup>: In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing JOY and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity.**

**People<sup>R</sup>: Let me hear JOY and gladness; let the bones You have crushed REJOICE. Restore to me the JOY of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

Pastor: What brings JOY to God?

**People<sup>L</sup>: I have no greater JOY than to hear that My children are walking in the truth.**

**People<sup>R</sup>: If you keep My commands, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commands and remain in His love.**

**People<sup>L</sup>: I have told you this so that My JOY may be in you and that your JOY may be complete.**

Pastor: JOY comes with our salvation!

**People<sup>R</sup>: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

**Shout for JOY to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song.**

**People<sup>L</sup>: With JOY you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

**People<sup>R</sup>: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and JOY are in His dwelling place.**

Pastor: What are you waiting for?

\*HYMN

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

**<sup>1</sup> On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh.  
Awake and listen for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.**

**<sup>2</sup> Let every heart be cleansed from sin, make straight the way for God within  
and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.**

**<sup>3</sup> For You are our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;  
without Your grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.**

**<sup>4</sup> Stretch forth Your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more.  
O let Your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.**

**<sup>5</sup> To you, O Christ, all praises be, whose advent set Your people free;  
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore!**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Paul and Margot McQuate

Advent is a time of waiting. We wait in hope.

[The 1<sup>st</sup> candle is lit.]

We wait in peace.

[The 2<sup>nd</sup> candle is lit.]

As we wait, we are filled with joy – not because our lives are perfect, not because we don't have any struggles,  
but because we find our strength in God, the God of our salvation. We are joyful because God sent His Son,

Jesus Christ, into this world so we may be saved. Today, we light the candle of joy. As we wait, let us be people of joy.

[The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is lit.]

SONG

*Emmanuel, Emmanuel*

[Sing twice while the 3<sup>rd</sup> candle is lit.]

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel. His name is called Emmanuel. God with us, revealed in us. His name is called Emmanuel.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Advent Smells

CONFESSION

*Call to confession* Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. [Isaiah 40:3]

*Responsive Confession*

[Today's texts]

Pastor: It has been told to us from the beginning. You come with power and sit enthroned over all. Who is Your equal?

People: **Yet we continue to compare You to others.**

Pastor: Who can fathom Your Spirit or instruct and counsel You, the Creator?

People: **But we seek to enlighten You, to teach You the right way, a better way – the path of understanding.**

Pastor: We could see Your great power and mighty strength in the world.

People: **Yet we keep our eyes downcast, forgetting to lift them to see You.**

Pastor: We complain that our way is hidden from You; that You disregard our cause

People: **even though we know that You are the everlasting, tireless God with fathomless understanding.**

Pastor: We can be quick to lose hope in You Who gives strength to the weary and power to the weak

People: **so we don't soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint, and do all through Christ Who gives us strength.**

Pastor: We tend toward conceit and think it's really odd to boast and delight in our weaknesses, in insults and difficulties.

People: **forgetting that You have said that when we are weak, we are strong, that Christ's power rests then on us.**

Pastor: Comfort, comfort my people, You say. Speak tenderly Your people.

People: **We don't always tend Your flock, carry them close to our hearts, and gently lead them.**

Pastor: Bring the Good News. Cry out! Lift up your voice with a shout, do not be afraid. Proclaim that sin has been paid.

Pastor: **We timidly whisper, "Here is your God! The word of our God endures forever."**

*Assurance of Pardon*

[from Isaiah 40:2, 5]

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and proclaim to her ... that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins... The glory of the Lord will be revealed and all people will see it together.

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:1-10, 27-31; Philippians 4:13; 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10

HYMN

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**<sup>1</sup> 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 all, from heaven's all gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**<sup>2</sup> Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.**

**<sup>3</sup> And you, beneath life's crushing load whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,  
look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:  
O, rest beside the weary road and hear the angels sing.**

**<sup>4</sup> For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold –  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.**

SERMON: Waiting ~ Waiting to be Satisfied

GOD'S WORD ON GIVING

[from Philippians 4:10-19]

I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me... it was good of you to share in my troubles. What I desire is that [your gifts] be credited to your account. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYERS of 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

*Sing with Joy, You Advent People*

[Tune: Angels We Have Heard on High]

**Sing with joy, you Advent people! Hopeful hearts inspire your song.  
Fill the earth with alleluias for the wait will not be long.**

*Refrain: Joy ... ful hearts sing with exultation! Joy... ful hearts sing with exultation!*

**Draw with joy the springing waters bursting from the well of God.  
See the wondrous Gift of Heaven, Key of David, Jesse's Rod. *Refrain***

**Shout with joy, O Daughter Zion! Sing aloud, Jerusalem!  
Now your God is coming nearer. Sorrow's time is at an end. *Refrain***

BENEDICTION

As you wait for Christ to return, live as people of *joy* and go with God's blessing.  
May hope in Christ's return sustain you, God's peace saturate the world around you,  
the joy of the Holy Spirit strengthen you, and the love of the triune God encircle you,  
in this moment and in all the moments to come. Amen.

NOTES ON PARISH LIFE and THE POSTLUDE

**Citations for Worship 2021.12.12**

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry.* Words: Charles Coffin (1727), Tr. John Chandler (1837).

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Call to Worship adapted from Psalm 97:11-12; Psalm 81:1; Psalm 16:11; 2 Corinthians 8:2; Psalm 51:8, 12; 3 John 4; John 15:10-11; Psalm 98:3-4; Isaiah 12:3; 1 Chronicles 16:2  
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