December 14, 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude - Gathering as a Community of Faith Marni Wiggins

Welcome (Announcements)

***Greeting One Another in the Spirit of Love**

***Opening Praise Song** "Emmanuel God With Us" Chris Tomlin

***Prayer**

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 35:1-6,10

***Call to Worship and Advent Candle Lighting**

L: Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Today we come with our hearts in many places— some light, some heavy, some full of song, some nearly silent—and yet God whispers over all of us: "You are seen. You are loved. Come and find joy."

C: We come, O God, looking for a joy that does not depend on everything being perfect. We come to meet You in this waiting time.

L: Today, we light the third candle—the candle of Joy. As we see it shine, we remember Mary, a young woman in a small town, who heard heaven say, "You are favored… you are beautiful with God's beauty, inside and out." Her joy was not that life got easy, but that God was with her in the middle of it all.

C: Let us worship the God who comes among us with hope, peace, and deep, surprising joy. Amen

Lighting of the Third Candle of Advent

***Hymn** "Joyful. Joyful, We Adore Thee" No. 22

Scriptures

Psalm 139:1-14 *Luke 1:26-38

Prayers of the People
Lord's Prayer

***Hymn** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 97

God Moments
(This is a time to share how Jesus Christ our risen Lord has provided you with a moment of blessing and grace)

Youth Sermon

Special Music "What Child Is This" Claire Banks

Message "Favored One" Rev J Mark Hensley

Special Music "Noel" The Church Choir

Offertory Prayer (Read in Unison)

Joyful God, look now on us and on these gifts we bring. Use what we offer—our money, our time, our lives—to lift up the lowly, to fill the hungry with good things, and to spread the joy of Christ in this world. In His name we pray. Amen.

Offertory (The offering plates will be passed while music is played)

***Doxology**

***Hymn** "Joy to the World" No. 107
***Benediction**
***Benediction Song** "Let There Be Peace on Earth" No. 308

Postlude Marni Wiggins

We exist to reflect the love of Jesus so that others may experience God's love as we grow together in faith, love and service

Rejoice

Joy doesn't wait for a perfect world.
It rises quietly in ordinary lives—
in small places,
in honest questions,
in hearts still learning to hope.
Like Mary in Nazareth,
we hear God whisper,
"You are seen. You are loved."
Today we light the candle of joy,
a small flame reminding us
that God is near—
and that is reason enough to rejoice.

Notes:

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