

“ORDER OF WORSHIP FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10 a.m.

December 12, 2021

** indicates “stand if you are able.” UMH is the blue hymnal. TFWs is the small black book.*

INTROIT *“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”* UMH #240

WELCOME ALL CHILDREN OF GOD AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETINGS

One: The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: The risen Christ is with us.

All: Praise the Lord!

*HYMN *“The First Noel” Verses 1, 3, 4* UMH #245

CALL TO WORSHIP AND OPENING PRAYER

One: Let all who love God rejoice.

All: Let all who thirst for justice draw water from the well of God’s salvation.

One: Let all who long for Christ sing for joy.

All: Let all who hunger for righteousness return home to the living God.

One: Let all who seek the Spirit shout aloud.

All: Let all who yearn for mercy fall on their knees before the throne of grace.

One: And together let us pray.

All: God of our salvation, you bring victory to the righteous and comfort to the outcast. As we come before you this day, lighten our hearts with laughter and loosen our tongues to sing your praise. For you alone are the source of our hope; you alone are the fountain of our joy. Be with us now and always. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING & MEDITATION

Reader One: It’s a reunion, every time we go home, every time we embrace those we love, no matter how long it has been. It feels like sunrise, like the clouds are parting and the rain has ended. It is joy, nothing less than pure joy to grab hold of those who are home for us, who make home for us. Whether we wake up to them every day, or travel many miles to see them again, it is joy to go home.

Reader Two: The prophet Zephaniah tells us to rejoice at the thought of going home. The prophet tells us to imagine being set free, being unburdened, being released to live, to fully live in the grace and wonder of life itself, surrounded by those who love us like no one else. And then to live like that was our truth even now, even here. It is joy to go home.

Reader One: John the Baptist reminds us, however, that it takes choices to live in this joy. It doesn’t just happen; we choose to make life a joy by how we love others, by how we serve and give and care for others, by how we do the job we do and how we impact the world around us. We build joy as we build a home in this world and the next.

Reader Two: We light these candles, the candle of hope, and of peace, and of joy, as a sign that we are on our way home, and we walk with a skip in our step because we can see the destination, and it is pure joy. It is time to go home.

Light two candles in the Advent wreath. Light a pink colored candle in the wreath as a third candle.

*HYMN *“I Can Only Imagine”* Bart Millard / arr. Stephen DeCesare
Debbie Holland & Chelsea Quinn - Duet

I can only imagine what it will be like when I walk by Your side.

I can only imagine what my eyes will see when Your face is before me.

I can only imagine.

Surrounded by Your glory, what will my heart feel?

Will I dance for You Jesus, or in awe of You be still?

Will I stand in Your presence or to my knee will I fall?

Will I sing hallelujah? Will I be able to speak at all?

I can only imagine.

I can only imagine when that day comes and I find myself standing in the sun.

I can only imagine when all I will do is forever, forever worship you.

I can only imagine.

A TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES *“Children’s Message”*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let all who wish to know the ways of life and death listen for the word of God. Truly the presence of the Lord is in this place.

THE HEBREW READING Isaiah 12:2-6

THE EPISTLE READING Philippians 4:4-7

THE GOSPEL READING Luke 3:7-18

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON *“The Joy of Home”* Rev. Jane Kim

JOYS AND CONCERNS

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

(From UMH page 7)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Source of compassion and grace, we yearn to embody the joy of your salvation but we are easily distracted by the demands of the season; we long to taste the wellspring of your mercy, but we are caught up in the frenzy of the holidays. Be our quiet center, that we may find your

joy deep within. Be our secret heart, that we may live lives of love wherever we go. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The one who loves us with a fierce tenderness takes away our guilt and leads us in the ways of life. The one who guides us with justice and mercy restores our fortunes and leads us home.

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS (in unison)

Offering our gifts to God is a holy act. In this sacred moment, let us offer our gifts and our lives to the holy work of God.

WEEKLY OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*“A Gaelic Blessing”
Debbie Holland – Soloist*

by John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.

*DOXOLOGY *“Angels We Have Heard on High” Refrain only* UMH #238

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Generous God, the bounty of your love overflows into every aspect of our lives. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to share our love with those in need. May the offerings we place upon your Lord’s table symbolize our trust in your power to heal the world through the words of our hands and the ministries of you church. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

*HYMN *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* UMH #230

*BENEDICTION AND SENDING FORTH

One: Go with the joy of the Lord on your lips.

All: Go with the peace of Christ in your hearts.

One: Go with the strength of the Holy Spirit in every step you take.

All: Go with God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us share God’s love and peace with one another.

PLEASE JOIN CUMC IN-PERSON/ZOOM COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWING THE SERVICE.

OUR WORSHIP HAS ENDED

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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December 12, 2021

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