

Prepare the Way of the Lord  
Sunday, December 17, 2023  
Advent III ~ Joy

Welcoming & Announcements

Centring Music Come, Come Emmanuel

*words and music by James J. Chepponis*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

On this third Sunday in Advent, we light this candle and name it Joy. As we light this candle, we remember our commitment to bring joy to all through our love and caring as disciples of Christ.

**O God come, travel with us  
as we prepare the way for Advent Joy.**

Choral Response **Prepare the Way of the Lord**  
(Voices United 10)

*Words: Isaiah 40:3; adapt. Michael Burkhardt 1990; Music: Michael Burkhardt 1990  
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Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make a straight path for him, make a straight path;  
prepare the way of the Lord!

Opening Hymn **Hark the Glad Sound** (Voices United 29)

*Words: Philip Doddridge 1738 alt.;  
Music: Thomas Haweis 1792, adapt. Samuel Webbe 1808, desc. John Wilson  
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- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long:  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
and iron fetters yield.
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved name.

Advent Prayer

A Time To Wonder

Special Music I Wonder as I Wander

*Appalachian Carol  
Adapted and arranged by John Jacob Niles and Lewis Henry Horten*

## Seekers Of The Light

A Cantata for Christmas  
By Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes  
Narrators: Ruth Schulz & Rev. Winston Stokes  
Pianist: Glenn Parsons

Prelude  
Sing We Now of Christmas  
Prepare!  
Come Near to the Manger  
Angels Shout the News Tonight  
Hurry to Bethlehem  
Seekers of the Light  
Behold! Go Tell! Shine!

Featuring soloists: Sam Boehner, Christine Cardy,  
Peggy Dayton, Stephen Godfrey,  
Beth Parsons, Alan Priestley and Erich Schulz

### Invitation to Offering

### Offertory Music

Gesu Bambino

by Pietro A Yon

### Choral Response **Come Touch Our Hearts**

(More Voices 12, v. 1)

*Words and music: Gordon Light, 2002; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002  
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Come touch our hearts  
That we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough  
to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
Come touch and bless our hearts.

### Offering Prayer

When we reach out in love and understanding to others,  
**Joy is your gift to us.**  
When we answer your Gospel in our giving,  
**Joy is your gift to us.**  
When we pledge ourselves to your direction,  
**Joy is your gift to us.**

### Pastoral Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

### Parting Hymn **Joy to the World** (Voices United 59)

*Words: Isaac watts 1791, alt.*

*Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836  
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- 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 Saviour 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 sins 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 earth 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

Postlude

Joy to the World

*by Don Hustad, based on "Antioch" by George F. Handel*

Worship Leaders – Pastor Beth Parsons

Music Leader – Sharon Prindle-Collins

Flutist - Johanna de Leeuw

Welcoming, Offering Invitation and Prayer – Stephen Godfrey

Greeters – Carol-Ann and David Staples

Advent Prayer – Ruth Schulz

Spirit Kids Program – Leslie Moffat

Technical Support – Rob Glenn and Lousie Johnston

Fellowship Time – Ethel Wilson Women's Group