



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 15, 2024

10:00 am

**please rise as you are able, in body or spirit.*

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

INTROIT

Handchimes Choir

LIGHTING THE THIRD CANDLE OF ADVENT –

Heidi and Bruce Harper

A long time ago, a baby was born in a town called "House of Bread." Mary, his mother, witnessed the shepherds glorifying and praising God, filled with joy at what they had seen. She treasured these things in her heart.

First, we light the candle of hope. Hope is believing things can get better with compassion and imagination.

Next, we light the candle of peace. Peace is what happens when everyone treats each other, themselves, and the world kindly and as neighbors.

Today, we light the candle of joy. Joy is when you feel so thankful you could burst with excitement and gratitude.

As we light this candle, we are reminded that, from the manger, joy is growing—growing to be God with us. His name is Jesus, Bread of Life.

God of compassion, we know many people do not feel joyful today. Some are grieving loss, some are feeling ill. Some people are hungry, some are worried or fearful. We know you see and understand all of our troubles, sadness, and pain. Even though you were born to bring joy, you do not ask us to pretend happiness when life is hard. Help us be a community where people feel safe to express all their feelings, from sadness and fear to joy. Amen.

HYMN*

“Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart”

804

PRAYER OF PRAISE*

CONFESSION OF SIN (UNISON)

God of abundant grace, in this Advent season, we confess the times we’ve sought our own happiness or comfort at the expense of others. We have ignored others’ needs and joys, overlooked the hungry, and forgotten true joy comes from sharing our abundance. We have forsaken the joy found in

**uplifting others and ensuring their needs are met.
Help us turn away from self-centeredness and
toward a life of compassion and generosity.**

(silence)

**Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have
mercy. Kyrie Eleison. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON / PASSING OF THE PEACE*

RESPONSE TO PARDON*

112

**When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
Glory to God in highest heaven;
Peace on earth and goodwill. Amen.**

A TIME WITH CHILDREN

OLD TESTAMENT – Zephaniah 3:14-20

Frieda Bostian

OFFERING OF MUSIC

Adult Choir

“A Joyful Song”

GOSPEL – Luke 2:20, Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

Linda Dickerson

“Joy Grows”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy 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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

HYMN* *“Angels We Have Heard on High”* 113

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*

CHORAL RESPONSE*

**While we are waiting, come;
While we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
While we are waiting, come.**

FELLOWSHIP TIME

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES