



December 12, 2021
Third Sunday of Advent

REFLECTION

“While other worldviews lead us to sit in the midst of life’s joys, foreseeing the coming sorrows, Christianity empowers its people to sit in the midst of this world’s sorrows, tasting the coming joy.”
~Timothy Keller

PRELUDE

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

arr. Lloyd Larson

WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

****HYMN No. 71**

“Surely, It Is God Who Saves Me”

FIRST SONG

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And God will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
From the springs of salvation
And on that day you shall say,
“Give thanks to the Lord
And call upon God’s name.”

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And God will be my Savior.
Cry aloud inhabitants of Zion,
Ring out your joy,
For the great one in the midst of you
Is the Holy One of Israel.

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And God will be my Savior.
Make God’s deeds known among the peoples;
See that they remember that the Lord is exalted.
Sing the praises of the Lord,
For God has done great things
And this is known in all the world.

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,
And God will be my Savior.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(In Unison)*

When we look around at ourselves and our world, God of all time, we find little reason to rejoice. Called to lives of gentleness, too often we do not speak out against those who stir up and promote anger and hurt. Invited to be generous, we tighten our grips on our clothes,

our food, and even our love. Called to be just with everyone, it is all too easy to turn away from those who are different from us. Because You are our salvation, You choose to forgive us, Joy of our hearts. We are renewed by Your love so we can be more caring; we are given new life, so we can serve those around us; we are showered with Your gladness, and invited to share the joy of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, with everyone we meet. In Jesus' name we pray.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

"The days are coming", says the prophet Isaiah, "when all God's promises will be fulfilled." These promises of hope, peace, joy, and love are for you. Receive the joy that God offers to you today.

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Glory to God in the highest.

**HYMN No. 85, St. 3

"Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

TIF IN VELDELE

Light three candles to watch for Messiah:

Let the light banish darkness.

Lift your heads and lift high the gateway,

For the King of glory.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Children in kindergarten – 7th grade may exit the sanctuary for Sunday School.

FIRST LESSON

Zephaniah 3:14-2

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Christmastime"

Michal W. Smith & Joanna Carlson

Arr. Lloyd Larson

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 3:7-18

SERMON

"Come Home to Joy"

Rev. William Schram

SPECIAL MUSIC

"A Cradle in Bethlehem"

Al Bryan & Lawrence Stock

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we welcome Harper Elizabeth Baldwin, daughter of Alan Baldwin and Lindsay Morse, born on March 12, 2021, into our church family through the Sacrament of Baptism. Harper's sponsors are Danielle Morse and Jordan Casle. Representing the congregation is Elder Elizabeth Resch.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
the Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.

The third day He arose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy *catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF WELCOME No. 115, St. 1 & 3

“Away in a Manger”

MUELLER

Away in a manger no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask they to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE 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 No. 134, St. 1, 2 & 4**

“Joy to the World”

ANTIOCH

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.

Joy to the earth, the Savior 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.

He rules the world 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

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

arr. Marianne Kim

****Those who are able may stand.**

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Rev. William Schram & Rev. Barbara Piercy
Susan Jones & Noel Piercy
Paul Salierno, Cantor & Sarah Solie, Soloist
Malcolm Haddad & Madison Suk, Duet
First Church Ringers
Ray Liptak & Rob Thiemann, AV Engineers



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