

December 12, 2021

Advent 3

11 A.M.

Flowers are given by Sara Little and Barbara Shaver in memory of **Jim Little** (Sara's brother) and **Aletha Little** (Sara's mother).

RACIAL JUSTICE MOMENT

Evelyn Crooks

PRELUDE

Noel

Louis Claude Daquin

INVITATION:

*OPENING HYMN

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

**My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that You bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed Your sight on Your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall My name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day You bring. Let the fires of Your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

**Though I am small, my God, my all, You work great things in me,
And Your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for You yearn,
You will show Your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for Your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

Refrain

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound.
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

Refrain

OPENING PRAYER

Skipping, leaping, laughing, joy-evoking God, thank you for the ways You arrive at the doorways of our hearts unexpected. We are grateful that in the Advent journey there are moments along the road when we encounter You. We meet You in the taste of warm cookies, Christmas carols sung with others, quiet moments when the only light is from candles as holy darkness embraces us like a hug. We pause this morning to look in the rearview mirror of the past month and prayerfully ponder, like Mary, where has the light of joy warmed our lives? Where has serendipitous joy been found in unusual and unexpected ways? In this holy silence, O God, awaken our imaginations to name and notice Your joy woven beautifully into our lives even here and now.

Pregnant Pause to listen for the joy seeking to make a home in your heart.

LIGHTING the CANDLE of JOY

SUNG RESPONSE

Light One Candle for Joy

Natalie Sleeth

**Light one candle for joy. One bright candle for joy.
God brings joy to every heart. God comes. God comes.**

CHRISTMAS LOVE OFFERING

Jan Kamm

ENGAGING SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴ For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

HOMILY

Joyfully Open

GOD IS

Five poems by Susan Palo Cherwien

God Is Praised in Justice

Colin Vanarsdall

HYMN

O For a World

Azmon

**O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.**

**O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.**

God Is Praised in Hope

James Mayer

HYMN

Come, O Long Expected Jesus

Hyfrydol

**Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set all people free:
From our fears and sins release us; grant us your true liberty.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart;
Dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.**

God Is Praised in Incarnation

Olivia Bixby

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christ-child bring;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled!
Joyful, all you saints arise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angel host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark: the herald angels sing, "Glory to the Christ-child bring;**

God Is Praised in Joy

Nicholas Vanarsdall

ANTHEM

Joy in the Morning

Natalie Sleeth

God Is Praised in Yearning

Ethan Bixby

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

*CLOSING HYMN

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

#107

**Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning,
Sing out your joy, for Jesus is born, behold! The Child of our longing.
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
To open wide the heavenly door, and lives now inside us forever**

**To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a singing
Whose humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with it's ringing.
Music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
The thunder of the anthems roll to shatter all hate and injustice.**

**In deepest night Christ's coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
One without voice breaks forth in song, a lame one leaps in wonder,
The weak are raised above the strong and weapons are broken asunder.**

**Rejoice, rejoice take heart in the night, though cold the winter and cheerless,
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless;
Love be our song and love our prayer, and love, our endless story,
May God fill every day we share, and bring us at last into glory.**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo

Wilbur Held