



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

Order of Service

Welcome

Prelude

“In Dulci Jubilo”

(J.S. Bach)

Tower Bell

Introit

Call to Worship

based on Psalm 126

L: The Lord has done great things!

M: **Our mouths are filled with laughter and praise!**

L: The Lord has done great things!

M: **That which is dry and parched is watered anew;**

that which is wasted and barren springs forth with new life!

L: The Lord has done great things!

M: **Tears of sorrow replaced by shouts of joy!**

L: The Lord has done great things!

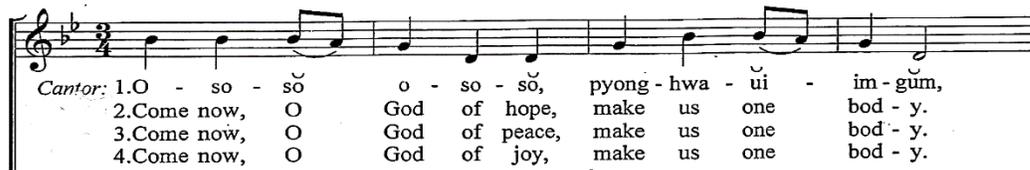
M: **The Lord has done great things!**

L: Let us Worship our God as we follow our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ!

Prayer of Invocation

In the midst of every distraction possible, let your Spirit dwell among us, God of the season, God of eternity. Let our Worship together renew our resolve to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, the year of Jubilee, to your people all around the world! Move in our midst, that our Worship should magnify your holy name not only in this place, but throughout our community and beyond. Grant your peace to your people, the true peace of your salvation that is for all people everywhere. These things we pray in your name. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy



Cantor: 1. O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ũi - im - gum,
2. Come now, O God of hope, make us one bod - y.
3. Come now, O God of peace, make us one bod - y.
4. Come now, O God of joy, make us one bod - y.



u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.
Come, O Lord Je - sus, re - con - cile your peo - ple.

Prayer

Come, O Holy One, breaker of chains and renewer of life! Open our eyes to your presence in all the earth. Stir us to proclaim gladly the signs of your love: the liberation of those oppressed, the healing of those frail and broken, springs of water in all the parched places, and Jesus Christ risen and alive, through whom we pray. Amen.

Scripture for the Day

From the Prophets: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

61 The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

⁸ For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;^[a]
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Anthem

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow” (Dan Forrest)

See amid the winter’s snow
Born for us on earth below,
See the tender lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years.

Hail, thou ever blessed morn,
Hail redemption’s happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the lofty skies,
He, who throned in light sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

Sacred infant, all divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss,
Down to such a world as this.

Scripture for the Day From the Letters of Paul: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets,^[a] ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound^[b] and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory *“Joy of Longing Hearts”* *(Mary McDonald)*

Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.
Come thou Savior of the world; come, we pray. Cast our sin and enter in.
Born thy people to deliver, now thy gracious kingdom bring
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne!
Come Lord Jesus, we pray.

Scripture for the Day

From the Gospels: John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah."^[a] ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah,^[b] nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Sermon "What Are You Waiting For?" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Hymn *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*
 (see last page)

Benediction

Choral Response

Postlude *“Hark The Herald Angels Sing” (Lani Smith)*

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754

Today's Worship Leaders:

Preaching Today: Rev. Marty Westermeyer

Liturgist: Carolyn Reisinger

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Candle Bearer: Paige Barber, Avery Barber & Kelsey Faller

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

188 Angels We Have Heard on High

1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heav - en - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

CHRISTMAS

The image shows a musical score for a Christmas song. It consists of two staves: a vocal line on top and a piano accompaniment on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line begins with a melodic phrase, followed by the lyrics "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The score ends with a double bar line.

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!