

# Third Sunday in Advent



## The Celebration of Worship

December 15, 2024 • Third Sunday of Advent



Pastor:  
Worship Leader:  
Pianist:  
Choir Conductor:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave  
Sue Goodwin  
Janet Hill  
Ben Pryor

### Centering Prayer for Worship

*Who are we, Lord God, that You should come to us? Yet You have visited Your people and redeemed us in Your Son. As we prepare to celebrate His birth, make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of Your Word, and move us by Your Spirit to praise your splendor and majesty. We ask this through Him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near, the One the angels sang with their tidings of great joy; Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

**Prelude**

Janet Hill

**\*Introit**

**All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

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*\* Those who can, please stand*

## Advent Candle Lighting

Advent Candle Lighters:

*Megan, Clifford, Kaya and CJ Toyama*

*Jennifer and Emi Nishizaki-Ngo*

*Kara, Lexi, and James Tanone and Lyn Haberstock*

Readers: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light two purple candles on the Advent wreath, and one pink candle. The candle of JOY. (Light three candles now).

From the beginning of creation to the end of time, God's joy colors everything. Joy shines in the darkness. It sings in the shadows. It cannot be contained. It was the hope of the saints, the call of the prophets, the courage of young Mary, the faithfulness of Joseph, the excitement of the shepherds, and magnificent glory of the angels.

Open your heart to joy and you will recognize joy shining in the most challenging struggle to the most wondrous delight, for God's joy flows through everything. Give love and joy with open hands and you will find God's joy shining in the power that can transform lives.

Let's pray:

Promised One, as we prepare the way for Your coming, help us find joy in You. Candle in the window, star in the night sky; Jesus, Light of God's joy, you lead us home. Amen.

**\*Advent Candle Lighting Song:** Angels, from the Realms of Glory" (#22)

*All sing verse 1.*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth; Ye, who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King!

**\*Response:** "Shalom"

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, Kami no mi megumi.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.)*

**Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani.**

*(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.)*

## Postlude

Janet Hill

*We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music and God's presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so.*

*Go with God's blessings.*

## In Appreciation:

Greeters: Carla Hart, Irene Uno

Ushers: Donna Komure-Toyama, Miko Kumagai

Parking Barriers (Sat): Dave McGill

Parking: Ben Pryor

Sound System: Jonathan Sakakibara

Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Aki Kumagai

Altar Flowers: Lynn Yamamoto

Angel Choir Song Support: Ian Davis, Mieko Davis

Gingerbread House Making: Cathy Nishizaki

## The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

**All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### \*Sending Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High (#23)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

*Refrain.* Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why tis jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?

*Refrain.* Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Refrain.* Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

### \*Benediction

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

## Call to Worship

Sue Goodwin

Leader: We gather to worship, O God, for it is time to prepare: angels are about to burst into song, singing of the peace, hope and joy we need.

**People: We gather, eager to begin the celebration: people longing to reach Bethlehem; people eager to kneel at the manger; people, ready to cradle the Holy Child; people hoping to be made whole.**

**All: God of joy, make Your blessings known in our hearts this day. Make Your blessings known in our church this day. Make Your blessings known in the world this day...in the name of Joy. Amen.**

### \*Opening Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (#31)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored! Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heavenborn Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we may no more die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

## Invitation to Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: Let's take a moment of silence, of calm, in order to center our hearts. Let's bring the weight of our regrets and the shame of our irritability and missed opportunities and ask God's forgiveness.

## Prayer of Confession

Sue Goodwin

Leader: With the songs of angels in our ears, we can no longer lash out with angry words that wound others.

**People: Looking for shepherds to arrive, we cannot ignore the family living in their car in the Walmart parking lot.**

Leader: Gracious God, joy and peace are the gifts You long to give, not only to us, but to the whole world.

**All: Empower us by Your Spirit, O God, to be Christ's presence in the world even as Jesus was God-with-us. Give us courage to speak His truth, to seek His justice, to love with His love.**

### *A Time for Contemplation*

*This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.*

## Assurance of God's Grace

Sue Goodwin

Leader: Know this, already your life is a little bit more peaceful having offered to God the pieces of chaos clouding your life.

**All: Now the dark skies are giving way to beams of light illuminating our way. We will joyfully move forward into God's path for us, for in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and free. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

*All Sing:* Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

## \*Passing of the Peace

Sue Goodwin

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## The Gospel in Story: The Christmas Backstory

Adapted from "A Tri-Told Nativity Pageant"  
by Rev. Jay Banasiak and Rev. Laura Becker

Cast of Characters:

John - Bill Nagata  
Matthew - Jonathan Sakakibara  
Luke - Dave McGill

Also Appearing from Bethlehem:

The Holy Family, Angel Gabriel, Angel Choir, Numerous Shepherds and Sheep

## Opportunity To Present Offerings

**All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.**

## \*Doxology

**All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## \*Prayer of Dedication

Sue Goodwin

## Joys & Concerns

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave