

Sunday December 13th 2020

Third Sunday In Advent

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

All: With joyful hearts, we draw living water from the wellspring of God's salvation.

One: With loud singing, we return to a home of love.

All: With loud shouts, we return to our God.

One: Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!

Hymn **VU# 55** "In The Bleak Midwinter"

Prayer of Approach (said together)

God of joy, we worship together in your name to proclaim the good news of your presence among us. Where there is oppression, we will shout a message of your liberating love.

Where there is sorrow, we will sing a song of your healing love. And where there is fear, doubt, confusion, or anger, we will shine the light of Jesus Christ, your incarnate love, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Candle Lighting – The Candle of Joy

One: We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life and everlasting joy. Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Our Candle Song

Good News Time

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn **VU# 58** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Advent Prayer (said together)

Emmanuel, God With Us, grant that the presence of your Spirit may be clear to us today and remind us of the joy of our salvation. Turn us in faith to thanksgiving and proclamation of the glorious works you have done for us.

Help us sing for joy for you have promised us that you will be with us wherever we are worshiping you. In the name of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 61: 1-3

Gospel Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Anthem First Baptist Church of Jacksonville: "*Hallelujah, Light Has Come*"

Sermon: Mailing Out Joy

Hymn **VU# 76** "See Amid The Winter's Snow"

The Offering Dedication

Offering Response: VU #55 verse 3 only

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.***

Prayers of the People

Hymn **VU# 59** "Joy To The World"

The Blessing and Benediction

Go now in peace, never be afraid;
God will go with you each hour of every day;
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe;
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above!
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price, Music: Don Besig © 1999

Postlude: Anúna – "The Coventry Carol"