

Sunday, December 14, 2025 – 9:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent — A Sunday of Joy

TODAY'S FOCUS: PROPHECY. John's question is the question of the ages: "Are you the one?" How does Jesus answer it? Would that answer be sufficient for you? Would it make you joyful?

PRELUDE — Brendan Krueger

INTROIT — Rinn Choir "Sing We Now of Christmas"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST — Lin

OPENING HYMN UMH #211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (vs. 1 & 2)

1. O come, O come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel
Who mourns in lowly exile here until the son of God appear.

REFRAIN: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come thou wisdom from on high who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show and teach us in its ways to go. **REFRAIN**

CALL TO WORSHIP — Suzanne Gallagher

One: Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that
someday all manner of things shall be well.

Many: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

Many: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and
rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

Many: We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

One: Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of
creation lives in everlasting joy.

ALL: Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2025. Used by permission.

OPENING PRAYER — Lin

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE — Bonnie Clark and Family

SPECIAL MUSIC — Rinn Choir "Still, Still, Still"

HYMN

TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Sue Mercer**SCRIPTURE: Matthew 11:2-11** — Suzanne Gallagher

² When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples, ³ and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴ Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵ the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶ And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." ⁷ As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

MESSAGE

"Are You the One?"

Rev. Lin Cheek

RESPONSIVE HYMN UMH #229 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

1. Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
Oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.

2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.

OFFERTORY — Rinn Choir

"See Amid the Winter's Snow"

DOXOLOGY

UMH #94

PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Suzanne Gallagher

All: Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER — Lin

ALL: 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. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

UMH #230 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1 & 2)

1. O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

BENEDICTION — Lin

POSTLUDE — Brendan Krueger

Prelude/Postlude—Brendan Krueger
Offertory— Rinn Choir
Organ — Betsy Foushee
Liturgist —Suzanne Gallagher
Special Music & Introit — Rinn Choir

Accomp.— Brendan Krueger
Song Leader — Shelly Anderson
Violin — Rae Ann Norell
Children's Message— Sue Mercer