

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — THE SUNDAY OF JOY!

TODAY'S FOCUS: The Gospel of Mark is not known for containing a Christmas story, but it does have a birth story that we can't ignore at Christmas-time — the birth of Jesus' ministry of salvation, which brings us great joy!

PRELUDE — Anneke Toomey

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS — Lin

***OPENING HYMN** UMH #213 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vs 1 & 3)

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and adore him, born the king of angels

REFRAIN: O come let us adore him. O come let us adore him.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord

3. Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. REFRAIN

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH — Patsy Schmidt and Nina Zobel

HYMN TFWS #2233 "Where Children Belong"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE — Sharon Goldade

SCRIPTURE: Mark 1:1-11 — Sue Oliver

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." ⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

MESSAGE

“Christmas According to Mark”

Rev. Lin Cheek

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.

OFFERTORY — Anneke Toomey

***DOXOLOGY** UMH #94

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION — Sue Oliver**

All: God of all joy and goodness, we give our offering this morning with glad hearts, grateful for your love and happy to be part of the building up of your faith community through the ministries of this church. Bless these gifts and bless also the music we are about to hear and all those who bring the gift of music to our worship. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen!

RINN CHOIR CANTATA

The Prince of Peace: A Christmas Choir Cantata
By E. L. Ashford

***CLOSING HYMN** UMH #246 “Joy to the World”

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth received her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

***BENEDICTION — Lin**

POSTLUDE — Anneke Toomey

RINN CHOIR CANTATA

The Prince of Peace: A Christmas Choir Cantata By E. L. Ashford

No. 1. Sing, O Heav'ns — Choir, with solo by Janice Bachmann

No. 2. The Heavenly King — Baritones, with solo by Teena Leuhrsen

No. 3. Fear Thou Not — Choir, with solo by Scott Anderson

No. 4. Hail, Bethlehem — Solo by Shelly Anderson

No. 5. O Holy Night! — Choir

No. 6. There were Shepherds — Choir, with solo by Scott Anderson

No. 7. Bright Star of Hope — Duet by Shelly Anderson and Patsy Schmidt

No. 8. March of the Magi — Baritones

No. 9. Blessed be the Lord God — Choir, with solo by Janice Bachmann

RINN CHOIR MEMBERS

Direction and Accompaniment by Anneke Toomey

Sopranos

Janice Bachmann
Bonnie Clark
Ruth Fuss
Sharon Goldade
Linda Rinn
Rhonda Ritter

Altos

Lin Cheek
Rae Ann Norell
Margaret Regnier
Patsy Schmidt
Sharon Thompson

Baritones

Scott Anderson
Shelly Anderson
Betsy Foushee
Teena Leuhrsen

Prelude/Postlude—Anneke
Song Leader—Choir
Liturgist — Sue Oliver
Violin — Rae Ann Norell

Accomp.—Anneke
Special Music — CANTATA!
Children's Message— Sharon Goldade

Offertory—Anneke
Organ — Betsy?