

December 16, 2018 – 10:00 am

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rev. Rosemary Captain

We are an Open and Affirming congregation,
where all are welcome.



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.
- THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP
- CCLI LICENSE #11164431
- LITURGY WRITTEN BY REV. LAVON BAYLER
- **PLEASE RESPOND WITH WORDS IN BOLD PRINT.**
- ***PLEASE STAND IF COMFORTABLY ABLE.**
- **NCH IS THE NEW CENTURY HYMNAL.**

PRELUDE: **“Two German Carols” Roger C. Wilson**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE:

CHOIR: **“Love’s Pure Light” Joel Raney**
Congregational part - insert

RESPONSIVE LITANY: **Hope for God’s Joy**

One: In this season of Advent
we celebrate with joyful hearts.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

One: We count our blessings, and give thanks for
God’s goodness and grace.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

One: We strive to search for the good inn neighbors
near and far.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

One: We remember that God has promised us full
and joyful lives.

MANY: Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

This morning we light three candles - the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. This candle reminds us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Child’s birth as ‘Good news of great joy, to all people.’ We

celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Rejoice, give thanks; call on God's name;
the Holy One is in our midst.

**MANY: How good it is to come home to God's house!
How good it is to gather in Christ's presence!**

One: Sing aloud! Exult with all your heart;
The Sovereign One has done glorious things.

**MANY: We offer up our anxieties, seeking God's
peace. We face our plenty, eager to share.**

One: Shout your praise! Express your joy!
The God of our salvation welcomes us.

**MANY: God's love is renewing us in these moments;
God's strength is becoming our song!**

***OPENING HYMN: NCH 115**

"The Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore"

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION:**

**God of our baptism, renew in us today the gifts of your
Holy Spirit and fire. We have come together, eager for
good news. We are here for instructions, ready to do
the work you call us to do in the world. Equip us in this
time of worship to draw deeply from the waters of
salvation. Fill us with your love that we may pass it on.**

Amen.

***GLORIA: NCH 759**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit,
Three- in-One; as it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

FIRST TESTAMENT READING: **Isaiah 12:2-6** Lay Liturgist

EPISTLE READING: **Philippians 4:4-7** Lay Liturgist

SPECIAL MUSIC: Duet with flute – Stacie Pickens

“What Star is This with Beams so Bright”

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

*GOSPEL LESSON: **Luke 3:7-18**

The Spirit continues to speak to the church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON: **“Rejoice”**

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH 123**

“Mary, Woman of Promise”

PASTORAL PRAYER: Beginning with a time for silent personal prayer. Concluding with the Lord’s Prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER: **Our Father 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

PRAYER RESPONSE: **Verse 3 “Away in a Manger”**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray,
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: **“Star of the East” Amanda Kennedy**

***DOXOLOGY: NCH 780**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION:**

We rejoice, O God of peace, in the privilege of giving without fear. You come to us daily with blessings too numerous to count. Through our offerings, we express our gratitude. As we give of ourselves, we respond to your call to bear fruit and to make your name known among the nations. Thank you for accepting all we offer. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: NCH 102 “O How Shall I Receive You”**

***BENEDICTION:**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH 812 Three-Fold Amen
Amen, Amen, A-men.**

***POSTLUDE: “Shout to the Lord” Darlene Zschech**