

10am Sunday Morning Service (O2 T5)

15 December 2024 Advent 3

Welcome (Lead Sue, Music Stuart)

Call to Worship

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. Amen.

Song: My Jesus My Saviour

My Jesus my Saviour

Lord there is none like You

All of my days I want to praise

The wonders of Your mighty love

My comfort my shelter

Tower of refuge and strength

Let every breath all that I am

Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing

Power and majesty praise to the King

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

At the sound of Your name

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand

Nothing compares to the promise, I have in You

Song: Mary's Boy Child

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible says,
Mary's Boy child, Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day.
Now Joseph and his wife, Mary, came to Bethlehem that night.
They found no place to bear her child,
not a single room was in sight.

**Hark! Now hear the angels sing, A new King born today.
And we will live forever more because of Christmas day.
Trumpets sound and angels sing, listen to what they say,
that man will live for evermore because of Christmas day.**

By and by they found a little nook in a stable all forlorn,
and in that manger, cold and dark, Mary's little boy was born.
While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
They saw a bright new shining star,
and heard a choir from heaven sing the music came from afar.

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Advent Wreath: Joy (Sophie with Kit and Eve)

*Lighting a candle is a simple yet profound act. It is a testimony to the power of light over darkness. As we light this third candle of Advent, we continue our journey to Christmas. The third candle of Advent is called the **Joy** candle; as we anticipate Christmas, let us remember the **joy** felt by those who realized what was happening.*

The Word of the Lord as Prophesied by Jeremiah

I will turn their mourning into gladness; I will give them comfort and **joy** instead of sorrow.

*Scripture reminds us that true **joy** comes from trusting in God. Paul wrote in Romans 15:13*

May the God of hope fill you with all **joy** and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ is the true answer for hope, peace, and joy in this season and for eternity.

We light this Advent candle, and we pray:

Come Lord Jesus!

**Open our lives to the Joy which you bring;
let us turn to you and get ready!**

Song: Happy Happy Day

Happy, Happy day

Sing for joy at Christmas

Fill the air with gladness

All the earth, All the earth

To us a son is given

He leaves his throne in Heaven

God with us-Oh happy, happy day

Christ the lord, the light of men

Born to die and rise again

Break the curse of death

And save us from our sin

Let angels sing and do not fear

Christ the servant King is here

Bringing peace to all

On whom Gods favor rests

Sinner, come and find release

The incarnate prince of peace

Let the wonder of his glory

Fill your heart

Emmanuel – Oh happy happy

God with us-Oh happy, happy day

Prayer for Children (Sue)

Bible Reading: Luke 1.5-25 (Jacky R)

⁵ In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, "How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years." ¹⁹ The angel replied, "I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur."

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He

kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ²⁵ “This is what the Lord has done for me in this time, when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.”

Message (Julia)

The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit
and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
Who has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Offering Song: Hallelujah

I've heard about this baby boy
Who's come to earth to bring us joy
And I just want to sing this song to you
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth
The minor fall, the major lift
With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A couple came to Bethlehem
Expecting child, they searched the inn
To find a place for You were coming soon
There was no room for them to stay
So in a manger filled with hay
God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

The shepherds left their flocks by night
To see this baby wrapped in light
A host of angels led them all to You
It was just as the angels said
You'll find Him in a manger bed
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

A star shown bright up in the east
To Bethlehem, the wisemen three
Came many miles and journeyed long for You
And to the place at which You were
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

I know You came to rescue me
This baby boy would grow to be
A man and one day die for me and you
My sins would drive the nails in You
That rugged cross was my cross, too
Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

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Thanks for the Offering

In the offering of our gifts, as well as the living of our days,
may we not grow weary of doing what is right,
but commit to speaking up for the voiceless,
healing the broken, feeding the hungry,
and all those mercies which are such a part of your heart
and hopes for all your children. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

The Confession

**Heavenly Father,
You have loved us with an everlasting love,
But we have broken your holy laws
And have left undone what we ought to have done.
We are sorry for our sins and turn away from them.
For the sake of your Son who died for us,
Forgive us, cleanse us and change us.
By your Holy Spirit, enable us to live for you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Declaration of Forgiveness

God is slow to anger and full of compassion,
Forgiving all who humbly repent
And trust in his Son as Saviour and Lord
God therefore forgives us in Christ Jesus,
In whom there is no condemnation. **Amen.**

Prayers for the Church and our World (Sue)

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
Are yours now and forever. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving (Ron with Julia and Soula)

**The Lord be with you. And also with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God,

We thank you for this world of wonder and delight.

You have given it to us to care for, so that all your creatures may enjoy its bounty. Lord our God

We give you thanks and praise

We thank you that when we turned away from you, You sent Jesus to live and work as one of us and bring us back to you. He showed us how to love you and set us free to love and serve one another.

Lord our God,

We give you thanks and praise

We thank you that on the cross Jesus took away all our sin,

All that keeps us from each other and from you.

He frees us from hate and fear, from all that destroys love and trust. Lord our God,

We give you thanks and praise

And so with everyone who believes in you,
With all the saints and angels, we rejoice and praise you, saying:
Holy holy holy Lord, God of power and might
Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

And now we thank you for these gifts of bread and wine;
May we who receive them, as Jesus said,
share the body and his blood.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread and gave thanks.

He broke the bread and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He shared the cup with them and said, "This is my blood poured out so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

You have gathered us together to feed on Christ
and to remember all he has done for us:

Fill us with your Spirit that we may follow Jesus in all we do and say,
working for justice and bringing your peace to this world that you have
made.

Accept our prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessing and honour and glory and power are yours forever and ever.
Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

We who are many are one body.

For we all share in the one bread

Prayers

Living God, In this holy meal you fill us with new hope.

May the power of your love,

Which we have known in word and sacrament,

Continue your saving work among us,

Give us courage for our pilgrimage,

And bring us to the joys you promise.

Father,

**we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen**

Notices (Sue)

Song: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare Him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the saviour reigns;
let men their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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, wonders of His love.

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The Blessing