



first community

December 14, 2025

11 am NORTH

ADVENT 3

GREETING – John

PRELUDE – May, organ

Let Our Gladness Know No End

15th Century Bohemian Carol/Raymond H.
Haan (b. 1938)

CALL TO WORSHIP⁽¹⁾ – John

ONE: The desert rejoices and blossoms like
the crocus.

**MANY: Joy springs up where only dust once
lay.**

ONE: The fearful are strengthened; the weak
are renewed.

**MANY: The dream of God is waking, and it
sounds like laughter.**

ONE: Come, all who wait for good news; come,
all who need to sing again.

**MANY: We gather to rejoice in God's dream
made visible in Christ.**

ONE: Even now, love hums beneath our
worry, and light shimmers at the edge of
things.

**ALL: Come, dreamers of God—let joy arise
within us as we worship.**

OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Child of God appear.**

**Refrain:
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Wisdom from on high,
and order all things, far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge of show,
and help us in that way to go. (Refrain)**

**O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by your advent here;
Love stir within the womb of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.
(Refrain)**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
(Refrain)**

WELCOME – Sarah

**LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE 3
– Talal, Jodi, Ashton, and Lleyton
Attar with Rev. Sarah Kientz**

**LEADER: We have dreamed of Hope and
Peace; today we dream of Joy.**

**R1: In the wilderness, flowers are blooming
where no flowers should grow.**

**R2: The blind see, the lame leap, and those
who sorrow find their voices again.**

LEADER: Joy is the echo of God's dream within us— a song stronger than fear and sweeter than sorrow.

(Pause as the third candle is lit.)

R1: We light this candle to remind us that God's joy is born in ordinary places— in hands that serve, in songs we hum without thinking, in hope we cannot explain.

R2: May its flame brighten our waiting and warm our witness.

All: Holy One, kindle in us the light of Joy. Let it rise like a song at dawn and carry your dream into the world.

LEADER: Come, Lord Jesus — our Joy and our Song. Amen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Sarah

ANTHEM- Chancel Choir

The Lord Shall Come and Not Be Slow
Zebulon Highben (b. 1979)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – John

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Dream – Sarah

Receiving the People's Gifts

Anthem – Chancel Choir

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
arr. Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

**Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of
Dedication⁽²⁾– Sarah**

ONE: As the gifts are presented, will all rise in
body or spirit?

**ALL: Joy-Bringing God, receive these gifts
and the gladness that moves our hearts to
give. Use them to brighten dark places and
to share your good news with those who
wait for deliverance. Amen.**

Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN - verse 1
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

AN INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE – Glen

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION – Glen

ONE: God of Joy, open our ears to the music of your Word. May its melody carry us from sorrow to singing, from silence to shouting praise. Teach us to join the song of your dream until all creation dances again. Amen.

PROPHETIC LESSON–Deacon Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus **2** it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.

God will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

God will come and save you.”

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for
joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

9 No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

SERMON – Glen

"Dreaming of Joy"

CLOSING HYMN

All Who Love and Serve Your City

**All who love and serve your city,
all who bear its daily stress,
all who cry for peace and justice,
all who curse and all who bless:**

**In your day of loss and sorrow,
in your day of helpless strife,
honor, peace, and love retreating,
seek the Lord, who is your life.**

**In your day of wealth and plenty,
wasted work and wasted play,
call to mind the word of Jesus,
"Work ye yet while it is day."**

BENEDICTION –Glen

ONE: Go forth with music in your heart and light in your eyes. Dream with Jesus until every valley rings with joy.

POSTLUDE – May, organ

Joy to the World arr. Diane Bish (b. 1941)