

Tithes and offerings...

The mission and ministry of Dyersburg FUMC is now more vital than ever. Although you can bring your offerings with you to church on Sunday, you can also mail them or give online. Checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 452, Dyersburg, TN 38025, online @ <https://fumcdyersburg.com/donate>, or scan the following QR code with your phone.



Third Sunday of Advent December 17, 2023

✚ Please stand as you are able

Prelude

Welcome and Centering Words

Lighting of the Advent Candles  
Reader: We unwrap a present on this third Sunday of Advent, anticipating the gift that God will reveal!  
**People: And we open our hearts, just like we open this gift!**

Reader: The promise of Joy is God's divine gift to us!  
**People: And what will we do with it?**

Reader: The gift of Joy is not the same as happiness but rather the deep conviction that God has invited us to help in God's work of bringing about “great things” - nothing less than the Kingdom of God.  
**People: We light this Candle of Joy as a sign that we will be Present with Joy in the world.**

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what can I give him: I will give him my heart.*

Reader: Holy Living Light of God, you are our Joyful Presence. Let this joy grow in our lives each day, so we can be a Present of Joy to others. Unwrap our hearts and open them. Amen.

Opening Hymn UMH 89 HYMN TO JOY  
*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*  
*(vss. 1, 2, 3, 4)*

Celebration of Young Disciples  
Children ages 3 through 1<sup>st</sup> Grade may join Mrs. Tori in the back of the sanctuary for Children’s Church.

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, December 17  
9:00 a.m. Christmas Breakfast  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
4:00 p.m. Blankets  
4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party – RH
- Tuesday, December 19  
9:30 a.m. Yoga – FLC  
6:00 p.m. Men’s Basketball – FLC
- Wednesday, December 20  
6:30 a.m. Men’s Prayer Breakfast – FH
- Thursday, December 21  
9:30 a.m. Yoga – FLC  
12:30 p.m. Community Assistance – Narthex
- Saturday, December 23  
9:00 a.m. Upward® Games – FLC  
1:00 p.m. Pickleball – FLC
- Sunday, December 24  
9:00 a.m. Christmas Special – Sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Worship  
5:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service with Communion – Sanctuary  
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion – Sanctuary

FLC – Family Life Center  
FH – Fellowship Hall  
RH - Rawles Hall

Assisting in Worship...

Rev. Dr. Mary Beth Bernheisel  
Pastor

Caroline White  
Liturgist

Josh White  
Accompanist

Tori Armstrong  
Children’s Ministry Director

Steve Guttery  
Audio

Youth Volunteer  
Video

Scripture Lessons  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 10 NRSV  
Liturgist: The Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
**People: to bind up the brokenhearted;**

Liturgist: to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
**People: and release to the prisoners;**

Liturgist: to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor, and the day of vengeance of our God;  
**People: to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion –**

Liturgist: to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
**People: the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.**

Liturgist: They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
**People: They shall build up the ancient ruins,**

Liturgist: they shall raise up the former devastations;  
**People: they shall repair the ruined cities,**

Liturgist: the devastations of many generations...  
**People: They will be called oaks of righteousness,**

Liturgist: the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
**People: I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God.**

Psalm 126 NRSV  
When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup>Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” <sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced. <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb. <sup>5</sup>May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. <sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Bringing Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music *Help Me Believe* Nordeman  
Kristen Caldwell

✠ Doxology 94 LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*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!*

✠ Hymn UMH 206 HOUSTON  
*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*  
(vss. 1, 2, 3)

✠ Scripture Lesson Luke 1:41-55 NRSV  
When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, “My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. <sup>51</sup>He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. <sup>52</sup>He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; <sup>53</sup>he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. <sup>54</sup>He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, <sup>55</sup>according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)  
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.

Invitation to Discipleship

✠ Sending Hymn UMH 240 MENDELSSOHN  
*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
(vss. 1, 2, 3)

✠ Announcements

✠ Benediction

✠ Postlude

Sermon Notes...