

The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island
Sunday, December 13, 2020
Advent III

"Gathering in God's presence..."

Prelude *How Great Our Joy* arr. James Mansfield

Words of Welcome

Song of Preparation *When God is a Child* Moon Beams

*Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Savior is born.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.*

Lighting the Advent Candle – Joy The Greb Family

Litany of Joy

Leader: "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."

People: "They that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them light has shined."

Leader: We are that people.

People: The light shines upon us.

Leader: The light of God's love shines through our darkest hours.

People: It banishes our fear.

Leader: It frees us from worldly worries.

People: It shows us that we are never alone.

Leader: It gives us joy beyond time, beyond space, beyond measure.

People: Thanks be to God.

Opening Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Adeste Fideles

*O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

Prayer of Confession

God of the prophets, we give thanks to the voices that cry out and demand our attention. They call us to put our trust and hope in you. Forgive us when we close our eyes to your vision, and when we stop our ears to your promise. Heal our weakness when we give up on ourselves, on one another, and on you. Free us from hopeless living, that we may joyfully love and serve others in your holy name. Amen.

Sung Confession

O Little Town of Bethlehem, vs 4

St. Louis

***O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!***

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus, after teaching his disciples about the depth of his love, said to them and says to us today, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." Christ has forgiven our sins and shares his love, that we might live a joyful and triumphant life with him. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Responding with Song

Joy to the World, vs 1

Antioch

***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.***

Hearing God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

The Scripture Read:

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood

shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection

Joyful and Triumphant

Rev. Ashley Sanders

Our Response

*Affirmation of Faith for Advent

We believe in God, creator of heaven and earth, origin and destiny of us all.

We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who implants the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful.

We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be consummated in the glorious marriage of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfilment of God's desire.

For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Prayer of the People & the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Response

Angels, from the Realms of Glory, vs 4

Regent Square

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
Evermore our voices raising To the eternal Three in One:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King!*

Prayer of Dedication

Benediction

Postlude

Adeste Fideles

arr. David Willcocks

...sending in God's name."

Leading Worship Today:
Advent Candle Liturgy – The Greb Family
Liturgy – Lucie Eggleston
Vocals – Lisa Barnes and Heather Hutton
Piano – Heather Hutton
Music Director – Sheri Melton
Pastor – Ashley Sanders

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