THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:30AM, December 14th, 2025

Liturgist: Gail Lingerman

Asterisk (*) indicates standing, as able. Bold/colored type indicates text spoken in unison.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsive

Beloved, we gather to rejoice in God who does wondrous things, who promises that someday all manner of things shall be well.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We worship with joy now, confident that God will not stop until all creation is at peace.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

We lift up our voices in song and story, in prayer and praise, as we remember and rejoice in all that God has done and will do among us.

We rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

Come! Let us worship God with joy as we work with God toward the day when all of creation lives in everlasting joy.

Come! Let us rejoice in the truth of the day that all the earth awaits.

***HYMN** "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH # 206

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

UMH # 881

OPENING PRAYER Unison

Holy God of Joy, We rejoice in the reality of who you are. We live within the joy of your love for us. Our contentment comes and goes. Our happiness ebbs and flows. Our feelings depend upon our circumstances, our physical health, our brain chemistry. But our joy is deeply rooted in our identity as your beloved children. And we give you thanks. Amen.

ADVENT CANDLELIGHTING RITUAL

Mark Shenise

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON Unison

We gather together in this season of Advent anticipating hope, praying for peace, attempting to cultivate joy and share love amidst commotion, grief, despair and uncertainty. (*Moment of silence*) God, we confess that we have often placed our hope in people and things that can't fulfill our every need. We have searched for peace in shallow places. We have mistaken joy for temporal pleasure and artificial exhilaration. We have put limits on the ways we love, excluding those who need our loving kindness the most. God, when we have lost our way, show us yours. Guide us to the hope in you that will renew our strength. Lead us to your peace that transcends all understanding. Fill us with a joy we can only experience in your presence. Remind us that you have always loved us with an everlasting love, so that we may share that love with others. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

In this season of desolation and uncertainty, it is good to know that God's love for us is sure - that God's commitment to us is definite - that God is guiding us as the compassionate companions that we are called to be for each other. Let us live into this gift. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

JOYS, CONCERNS AND PASTORAL PRAYER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 11:2-6 (NRSV)

- **2** When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples
- **3** and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"
- **4** Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:
- **5** the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.
- **6** And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

MESSAGE "Go and Tell: Bringing Joy to the People" Rev. Dongkue Jee

RESPOND TO THE WORD

* HYMN "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH # 224

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH # 895

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" **UMH # 95**

*PRAYER OF OFFERING Unison

Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes—to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" **UMH # 240**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday, December 14th, 2025



Classic Banner, Year A, Third Sunday of Advent, 1997, Vanderbilt Divinity Library staff, Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN, United States

Rev. Dongkue Jee, Pastor

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^{*} The offering plate is located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Please feel free to participate.

^{*} Fellowship follows the worship service. Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Parlor.