



# Emmanuel United Church of Christ

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

We Welcome You on this

Third Sunday of Advent

Service of the Word – December 12, 2021

9:30 AM

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## The Gathering

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Ringing of the Church Tower Bell  
Our Life Together  
The Solemn Declaration  
Prelude  
Call to Worship  
**Sung Response**

**Joy waits for us at Advent  
Joy waits for us to sing.  
Joy waits for our Amazement  
At the grace in everything.  
In this time of preparation  
For the work of co-creation,  
for the birthing of a world  
where wonder is restored.  
Joy is born in us again!**

**#Insert**

**Lighting of the Candle of Joy  
Sung Response**

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Joy waits for our Amazement  
At the grace in everything.  
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For the work of co-creation,  
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where wonder is restored.  
Joy is born in us again!**

**\*The Peace**

**Leader: The Joy of Christ be with you!  
All: And also with you!**

**(As we rise in body or spirit for our opening hymn, we invite you to pass a  
“wave” of peace to the people around you!)**

**\*Opening Hymn “Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates” #117 (NCH)**

Call to Confession

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

**You witness the sorts of lives we lead, Approaching God. Asked to share the gospel of hope, we place it on our to-do list instead. Given the chance to cry out for justice for others, we fall strangely silent. Invited to pray with joy in every moment, we prefer to grumble about every insignificant thing in our lives. Have mercy on us, God of grace, and prepare our hearts for Your forgiveness to have its way in them. Fill us with Your hope so we might lighten the shadows of others. Help us to join the choirs of children in singing of Your joy. Transform us with that tender mercy who is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.**

*(Silence is kept for personal reflection and prayer)*

**Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: God is our witness. We have spoken of our lives and been forgiven of every mistake we have made, every hurt we have caused.

**All: We are held in God’s heart, not only on this day, but all the days of our lives. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

**\*Choral Response “Gloria Patri” #759 (NCH)  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

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Listening for the Word

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A Time with the Children

**Hymn of Preparation “Spirit of the Living God” #283(NCH)  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

First Reading Isaiah 12: 2-6

Second Reading Luke 3: 7-18

Sermon “What Brings You Joy?” Jim Cope

