

Emmanuel United Church of Christ
A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
We Welcome you on this Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022 - 9:30 AM
Pastor Jim Cope and Pastor Jan Garinger



Gathering around the Word

Ringing of the Church Bell

Our Life Together

Prelude

The Solemn Declaration

Sung Response

There are angels among us that may not meet the eye.
There are messages of Hope coming from a choir on high.
But don't just look up;
For the way God works
Is to plant more hope right here on earth
just like it was with Jesus' birth.

Insert

Call to Worship

*Lighting the Candle of Joy

*Prayer of Joy

Leader: Holy Living God, Blessed Jesus, Guiding Spirit,

All: alight within us your flame of joy this day.

Leader: Grant us openness to hear your message.

All: Grant us courage to be your messengers in the world creating more joy in the midst of fear.

*Hymn

“Lift up Your head, Ye Mighty Gates”

#92 (RED)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

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.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In this season of chaos and uncertainty, it good to know that God's love for us is true and sure.

All: God is walking with us, guiding us, as the compassionate companion that we are called to be for each other.

*Choral Response

“Angels' Gloria”

#125 (NCH) refrain

Glo—ria in excelsis Deo,
Glo---ria in excelsis Deo.

Listening for the Word

A Time for the Children of all ages

Choral Preparation

“Breathe On Me Breath of God”

#191(RED)

Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

The Scripture Reading

First Reading

Philippians 4:4-5

Gospel Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

“Unexpected Gifts”

Pastor Jan

Hymn of Thanksgiving

“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

#99(RED)

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (using debts and debtors)

Sung Response

Insert

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Call to Offering

Offertory

*Offertory Response Tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel #88 (RED)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all Spirit messengers below.
Praise God, the source of all gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Prayer of Dedication

For the wondrous ways this offering will bless this community we dedicate these gifts. For the ways it will help us live out God's mission we dedicate these gifts. Let these gifts strengthen our call to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly. Amen

*Hymn "Joy to the World" #120 (RED)

*Benediction Pastor Jan

*Closing Response "No Obvious Angels" #Insert

*Postlude



* Indicates that all who are able. Please stand.

Bold print indicates unison reading.