

WORSHIP HANDOUT

Sunday December 10th

Third Sunday of Advent

Sanctified Art: How Does a Weary World Rejoice



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*SONG OF WELCOME I Come with Joy vs. 1-4 (OneL) UMH 617

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Our God can part the sea.

**God can bring water from a rock,
and provide bread in the desert.**

Our God can walk on water.

**He can heal the sick,
and turn water into wine.**

Our God sets the stars in the sky.

**God hears our voice when we cry,
and is closer than our own breath.**

There is nothing our God cannot do.

Let us stand in awe. Let us worship God with wonder.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER Advent Is a Time to Wait (tune:
Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*HYMN To God Be the Glory vs. 1,3 (PubDom) UMH 98

CALL TO CONFESSION (PA)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist/unison)

Holy God,

**Somewhere in our childhood we face pressure to outgrow
awe.**

We turn into adults who obsess over data and facts.

**We praise those who have answers,
and assume that wonder is an answerless game.**

Forgive us for closing that door to you.

Remind us that the kingdom of God belongs to children.

**Teach us the ways of awe and wonder,
so that like Zechariah,**

when we find ourselves speechless,

our first words will be words of praise.

With hearts open wide, we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist)

Family of faith,

Just as we marvel at mountains and newborns,

at sunrises and sunsets,

God marvels at us.

There is nothing you could do or leave undone that could prevent God
from loving you.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

We are forgiven.

We are loved.

We belong to God. Amen.

ANTHEM Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (OneL)

LESSON I **Psalm 126**

**When the Lord changed Zion's circumstances for the better,
it was like we had been dreaming.**

² **Our mouths were suddenly filled with laughter;
our tongues were filled with joyful shouts.
It was even said, at that time, among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them!”**

³ **Yes, the Lord has done great things for us,
and we are overjoyed.**

⁴ **Lord, change our circumstances for the better,
like dry streams in the desert waste!**

⁵ **Let those who plant with tears
reap the harvest with joyful shouts.**

⁶ **Let those who go out,
crying and carrying their seed,
come home with joyful shouts,
carrying bales of grain!**

May God add a Blessing to this reading.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

LESSON 2: **Luke 1:57-66**

⁵⁷ **When the time came for Elizabeth to have her child, she gave birth to a boy. ⁵⁸ Her neighbors and relatives celebrated with her because they had heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy. ⁵⁹ On the eighth day, it came time to circumcise the child. They wanted to name him Zechariah because that was his father’s name. ⁶⁰ But his mother replied, “No, his name will be John.”**

⁶¹ **They said to her, “None of your relatives have that name.” ⁶² Then they began gesturing to his father to see what he wanted to call him.**

⁶³ **After asking for a tablet, he surprised everyone by writing, “His name is John.” ⁶⁴ At that moment, Zechariah was able to speak again, and he began praising God.**

⁶⁵ All their neighbors were filled with awe, and everyone throughout the Judean highlands talked about what had happened. ⁶⁶ All who heard about this considered it carefully. They said, “What then will this child be?” Indeed, the Lord’s power was with him.

This is the Word of God for all people.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE We Allow Ourselves to be Amazed

*HYMN Isn’t It Amazing (used by permission, Sanctified Art)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

TIME OF PRAYER

Prayers/Names of the People

PASTORAL AND SILENT PRAYER (MUSIC)

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 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 now and forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER

Almighty God,
giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are,
that we may praise you not with our words only,
but with our whole lives. Amen.

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in a God who knows our names,
**who counts the hairs on our heads,
and carries the dreams in our hearts.**
We believe that God's fingerprints are all over creation,
**and that God is forever speaking to us in a million different
ways.**

We believe that awe and wonder,
**goosebumps and laughter,
telling stories and paying attention,**
are all ways that we can say thank you
to our creating, sustaining, and loving God.
**Therefore we commit ourselves to moving through this world
with eyes wide open,
with porous hearts,
and grateful spirits.**

We commit ourselves to living lives of awe, wonder, and gratitude,
**trusting that these things will forever draw us deeper into
God's loving arms.**

We believe.

We stand in awe.

Thanks be to God!

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION – SERVING

*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE

I Come with Joy vs. 5 (OneL)

UMH 617

POSTLUDE