

WORSHIP HANDOUT  
Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Second Sunday of Advent  
Sanctified Art: How Does a Weary World Rejoice



OPENING OF WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “We’ll Sing It True” video from Sanctified Art

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

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Family of faith, one of the greatest joys of worship is that it is not a solo act. We gather together.

We find joy, and God, in the act of connection. So as we begin our worship, I invite you to turn and face someone you are close to so that you can see one another.

(Pause as people get in position.) Now repeat these phrases after me:

Welcome to worship.

**Welcome to worship.**

I am glad you’re here.

**I am glad you’re here.**

Surely God is in this space.

**Surely God is in this space.**

I see God in your face.

**I see God in your face.**

Let us worship together.  
**Let us worship together.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SONG AS CHILDREN GATHER

“Advent Is a Time to Wait” (tune: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

ANTHEM            “Emmanuel is Coming”            Price/Bessig

CALL TO CONFESSION (PA)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (liturgist)

God of laughter,  
God of open front doors  
and family reunions,  
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world  
waiting for the other shoe to drop,  
waiting for life to fall apart,  
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,  
we lean into scarcity.

**We lean into fear.**

**We lean into isolation.**

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,  
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.**

**Show us how to find joy in connection.**

**Amen.**

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS (liturgist only)

Faith family,

I imagine that when we come before God with the truth of our lives, God meets us like Elizabeth meets Mary in our scripture today. The door is thrown open.

There is laughter. There is joy. There is embracing—and it is holy.

So trust this; believe this:

You are claimed. You are loved. You are forgiven. And you are sent to serve.

Find joy in that.

Amen!

HYMN    Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (pub dom)    UMH 196

LESSON I    Isaiah 40:1-11

**Comfort, comfort my people!**

**says your God.**

**<sup>2</sup> Speak compassionately to Jerusalem,  
and proclaim to her that her compulsory service has  
ended,**

**that her penalty has been paid,**

**that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all  
her sins!**

**<sup>3</sup> A voice is crying out:**

**“Clear the Lord's way in the desert!**

**Make a level highway in the wilderness for our God!**

**<sup>4</sup> Every valley will be raised up,  
and every mountain and hill will be flattened.**

**Uneven ground will become level,  
and rough terrain a valley plain.**

**<sup>5</sup> The Lord's glory will appear,  
and all humanity will see it together;  
the Lord's mouth has commanded it.”**

**<sup>6</sup> A voice was saying:**

**“Call out!”**

**And another said,**

**“What should I call out?”**

**All flesh is grass;  
all its loyalty is like the flowers of the field.**

**<sup>7</sup> The grass dries up  
and the flower withers  
when the Lord’s breath blows on it.  
Surely the people are grass.**

**<sup>8</sup> The grass dries up;  
the flower withers,  
but our God’s word will exist forever.**

**<sup>9</sup> Go up on a high mountain,  
messenger Zion!**

**Raise your voice and shout,  
messenger Jerusalem!**

**Raise it; don’t be afraid;  
say to the cities of Judah,  
“Here is your God!”**

**<sup>10</sup> Here is the Lord God,  
coming with strength,  
with a triumphant arm,  
bringing his reward with him  
and his payment before him.**

**<sup>11</sup> Like a shepherd, God will tend the flock;  
he will gather lambs in his arms  
and lift them onto his lap.**

**He will gently guide the nursing ewes.  
May God add a Blessing to this reading.**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**LESSON 2:                    Luke 1:24-45**

**<sup>24</sup> Afterward, his wife Elizabeth became pregnant. She kept to herself for five months, saying, <sup>25</sup> “This is the Lord’s doing. He**

has shown his favor to me by removing my disgrace among other people.”

<sup>26</sup> When Elizabeth was six months pregnant, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a city in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin who was engaged to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David’s house. The virgin’s name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> When the angel came to her, he said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” <sup>29</sup> She was confused by these words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you. <sup>31</sup> Look! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and he will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. <sup>33</sup> He will rule over Jacob’s house forever, and there will be no end to his kingdom.”

<sup>34</sup> Then Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen since I haven’t had sexual relations with a man?”

<sup>35</sup> The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come over you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the one who is to be born will be holy. He will be called God’s Son. <sup>36</sup> Look, even in her old age, your relative Elizabeth has conceived a son. This woman who was labeled ‘unable to conceive’ is now six months pregnant. <sup>37</sup> Nothing is impossible for God.”

<sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.” Then the angel left her.

<sup>39</sup> Mary got up and hurried to a city in the Judean highlands. <sup>40</sup> She entered Zechariah’s home and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup> When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. <sup>42</sup> With a loud voice she blurted out, “God has blessed you above all women, and he has blessed the child you carry. <sup>43</sup> Why do I have this honor, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup> As soon as I heard your greeting, the

**baby in my womb jumped for joy. <sup>45</sup> Happy is she who believed that the Lord would fulfill the promises he made to her.”**

This is the Word of God for all people.

**Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE        We Find Joy in Connection

HYMN

Blest Be the Tie That Binds (pub dom) vs. 1,2,3, plus extra UMH 557

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 that joy is a sacred gift,  
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,  
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.  
We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.  
Joy is meant to be shared,  
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.  
And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,  
we believe that part of being sacred community  
is leaning on one another.  
So together we say:  
I will share my joy when yours runs out.  
You will share your joy when mine runs out.  
And in doing so, we will both see God.  
Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION - SERVING**

**\*BENEDICTION and RESPONSE**

I Come with Joy (OneLic) vs. 5

UMH 617

**POSTLUDE**