



**December 12, 2021**  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**How Much is Enough-Joy**

**Prelude** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. Carol Tornquist  
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**Welcome**

**Advent Candle Lighting** "Joy Waits for Us at Advent" Amanda Udis-Kessler

Peace waits for us at Ad-vent Peace waits for us to rest.

Peace waits for our ac-cep-tance of the truth that we are blessed.

In this time of pre - par-a - tion for the work of co - cre-a - tion,

for the birth-ing of a world of gen-tle-ness and play,

Peace is born in us each day.

## Opening Hymn "Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates"

Lift up your heads, O mighty gates;  
Fling wide the portals of your heart;  
Re-deem-er, come! I open wide  
be-hold the glo-ri-ous Ru-ler waits!  
make it a tem-ple, set a-part  
my heart to you; here, Christ, a-bide!  
The Sov-ereign One is draw-ing near;  
From earth-ly use for heav-en's em-ploy;  
Let me your in-ner pres-ence feel;  
the Sav-ior of the world is here.  
a-dorned with prayer and love and joy.  
your grace and love in me re-veal.

## Children's Time

### First reading:

Isaiah 12: 2-6 (CEB)

God is indeed my salvation;  
I will trust and won't be afraid.  
Yah, the Lord, is my strength and my shield;  
he has become my salvation."  
You will draw water with joy from the springs of salvation.  
And you will say on that day:  
"Thank the Lord; call on God's name;  
proclaim God's deeds among the peoples;  
declare that God's name is exalted.  
Sing to the Lord, who has done glorious things;  
proclaim this throughout all the earth."  
Shout and sing for joy, city of Zion,  
because the holy one of Israel is great among you.

### The Witness of Music Chancel Choir

"An Advent Acclamation" Besancon-French Melody  
Words by Roger Thornhill  
arr. Stacey Nordmeyer

"An Advent Acclamation"

Look to the light, pre-prepare the way.  
Turn from night, embrace the day.  
Let all creation praise with singing;  
Set every bell in heaven ringing.  
Raise every candle, shine the news;  
Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the dawn, prepare your heart.  
Waken your song, let worship start.  
This is a day of celebration;  
Join in the music of jubilation.  
Raise every candle, shine the news;  
Christ, the Light, is coming soon!

Look to the star that gilds the East,  
Golden of heart and burning with peace.  
See now the torch is rising yonder,  
Lifting our hearts with glorious wonder.  
Raise every candle, shine the news;  
Christ, the Light is coming soon!

Raise every candle, shine the news;  
Christ, the Light is coming soon!  
Prepare the way!

### **Second Reading:**

Luke 3: 7-18 (CEB)

Then John said to the crowds who came to be baptized by him, “You children of snakes! Who warned you to escape from the angry judgment that is coming soon? Produce fruit that shows you have changed your hearts and lives. And don’t even think about saying to yourselves, Abraham is our father. I tell you that God is able to raise up Abraham’s children from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn’t produce good fruit will be chopped down and tossed into the fire.”

The crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” He answered, “Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.” Even tax collectors came to be baptized. They said to him, “Teacher, what should we do?” He replied, “Collect no more than you are authorized to collect.” Soldiers asked, “What about us? What should we do?” He answered, “Don’t cheat or harass anyone, and be satisfied with your pay.”

The people were filled with expectation, and everyone wondered whether John might be the Christ. John replied to them all, “I baptize you with water, but the one who is more powerful than me is coming. I’m not worthy to loosen the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. The shovel he uses to sift the wheat from the husks is in his hands. He will clean out his threshing area and bring the wheat into his barn. But he will burn the husks with a fire that can’t be put out.” With many other words John appealed to them, proclaiming good news to the people.

## Sermon Rev. Wendy Bruner

### Joys and Concerns

How shall we join God's work in the world?

### Closing Hymn "What Child is This"



What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
Bring gifts of in-cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju-bi-la-tion;



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?  
The Ho-ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal-va-tion.



This, this, the an-gel's sing, is Christ, God's hol-ly of-fer-ing;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth-er sing her lul-la-by;



Haste, haste, your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar-y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar-y!

### Benediction

Postlude "Blessings" Jim Brickman

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### Worship Notes

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