

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, including Concerns and Celebrations

**RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL**

OFFERING

*Walk In the Light* American Tradition/arr., Andre Thomas

\*DOXOLGY 607 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

\*HYMN 134 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

\*BENEDICTION

\*SENDING HYMN 384 "Soon and Very Soon" Andrae Crouch  
Verse 1: **Soon and very soon, we are gonna see the King (3x)**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King!**  
Verse 2: **No more cryin' there, we are gonna see the King (3x)**  
**Hallelujah, hallelujah, we are gonna see the King! (repeat Verse 1)**

\*POSTLUDE *Antioch* G.F. Handel/arr., J. Bennett

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MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi  
HANDBELL CHOIR under the direction of David Boardman  
GUEST HANDBELL CONDUCTOR: Anna Murphy  
GUEST CONDUCTOR/KEYBOARDIST: David Àiná  
FLUTE: Winnie Mburu

\* denotes standing as able.  
LITURGIST: Stephanie Cahill  
ADULT CHOIR



*Christmas Choral Worship*

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*December 17, 2023*

# COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: Purple      Third Sunday of Advent      10:45am Worship

## CHRISTMAS CHORAL WORSHIP GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

INTROIT      *Of the father's love begotten*      arr. Sandra Eithun  
*Hallelujah Amen*      by G. F. Handel

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*VOLUNTARY      *I Wish You Christmas*      John Rutter

\*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY      The Rea Family

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.”

The world says, “Worry,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The news says, “Fear,” and we say, “Rejoice.”

The world says, “Be happy,” and the church says, “Be faithful.”

*(The candle of joy is lit.)*

As we light our third Advent candle,

**We pray for hope, peace, and joy.**

Come now, O child of Mary.

**Come now, O Prince of Joy.**

\*HYMN 126      “Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child”      WONDERFUL CHILD  
**Jesus, Jesus, O what a wonderful child. Jesus, Jesus,**  
**so holy, meek and mild;**  
**new life, new JOY the child will bring. Listen to the angels sing:**  
**“Glory, glory, glory!” Let the heavens ring.**

### CALL TO CONFESSION

*Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, you love justice; why, then, do we persist in wrongdoing?**

**You have given us the gift of your Spirit;**

**why, then, do we quench the Spirit among us?**

**You have given us the words of the prophets and the Word himself;**

**why, then, do we ignore what we have heard from you?**

**Forgive us. Restore us. Till and tend us as your garden**

**until righteousness and praise spring up,**

**for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

### DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

\*RESPONSE HYMN 583      “Glory to God”      GLORIA  
**Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!**  
**Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!**

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

#### LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

FIRST READING      Isaiah 2: 1-4

CHORAL RESPONSE *Creation Will Dance & Rejoice*      Trilby Jordan & David Angerman

SECOND READING      Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11

CHORAL RESPONSE      *E Je Ka Jo Yo*      David Aina  
Let us all Rejoice & dance together, Christ the Savior is born for us

THIRD READING      Luke 1: 46b–55

HANDBELL RESPONSE      *In the Bleak Midwinter*      Martha Lynn Thompson

CHORAL RESPONSE      *Where Shepherds Lately Knelt*      Craig Courtney