



*Sights & Sounds
of Advent & Christmas:
A Musical Worship Service
December 15, 2024*

COVENANT at WORSHIP

Liturgical Color: Purple

Third Sunday of Advent

11:00am Worship

MUSICAL WORSHIP

GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

INTROIT

A Pastoral Christmas

arr., Douglas E. Wagner

(medley of Sheep May Safely Graze, Away in a Manger, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTARY

Angels All Around

by Christi Cary Miller

*CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY

Covenant Youth

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."

As we light our third Advent candle,

We pray for Hope, Peace, and Joy.

(The Advent Candle of Joy is lit.)

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 (unison)

Your love, O Lord, is good news for the oppressed, and you bind up the brokenhearted. Forgive us when we think that your good news is only for us. Forgive us when we twist your gospel into something that fits comfortably into our lives. By your light, let us see you leading us beyond ourselves and into the world you love. By your grace, forgive us and free us to follow you. We pray in the name of the child of Bethlehem, Jesus Christ Our Lord. (*Silent prayers of confession*)

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS (responsive)

In Jesus Christ, God comes to us,

In the child of Bethlehem, God is *with* us.

My friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*RESPONSE HYMN 582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me" GLORY TO GOD

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. (repeat)

LISTEN FOR THE GOOD NEWS

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Advent Celebration

Mark Patterson

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9: 2-7

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sweet Little Jesus Boy

MacGimsey/Schrader

SECOND READING		Isaiah 11: 1-9
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Christmas Peace Canon</i>	Jean Anne Schafferman
THIRD READING		Isaiah 40: 9-11
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Where Shepherds Lately Knelt</i>	Craig Courtney
FOURTH READING		Isaiah 2: 2-4
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>I Wish You Christmas</i>	John Rutter
FIFTH READING		Isaiah 60: 1-6
CHORAL RESPONSE	<i>Walk in the Light</i>	Andre Thomas

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

RESPOND TO THE GOSPEL

OFFERING *Meditation on Away in a Manger* arr., Andrew Duncan

*DOXOLOGY 606 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" OLD HUNDREDTH
 **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him,
 all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. 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

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 MUSIC DIRECTOR: Aaron Carter-Enyi LITURGIST: Jim Anderson, Covenant Youth
 ADULT CHOIR under the direction of Aaron Carter-Enyi HANDBELL CHOIR under the direction of David Boardman
 CHILDREN'S CHOIR under the direction of Betsy Burnmeister
 Lisa Buchanan, voice; Heidi Nibbelink, oboe; Donny Whitehead, sax; Bill Rigsby, bass