

Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

PRELUDE

Mr. Cody Eckenrode, Organ
Acolyte

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE SANCTUARY

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Pastor: Fount of Every Blessing, open our hearts to receive your Son, Jesus the Christ. To lives that are dry and parched:

All: Send the living waters of your Spirit to revive, enliven and bring forth new life.

Pastor: Fount of Every Blessing, to the empty and barren:

All: Grant a harvest of blessed joy and love; an overflowing of abundant hope and peace.

Pastor: Fount of Every Blessing, to the weary and heavy laden:

*All: Bestow gladness and laughter that they may leap with shouts of joy.
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing.
Come!*

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing²

Hymnal, #476

ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING³ (Based on Psalm 30:4 and 33:20-22)

Liturgist: Today, we light the third candle of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. Last week, we lit the candle of PEACE; the first week – HOPE. Today, we light the candle of JOY.

THE CANDLE IS LIT

Liturgist: Psalm 30:5b reads, "...weeping may last for the night, but joy comes in the morning."

All: In this season of lengthening darkness, help us to wait for the light with hope, for you are our help and shield. Help us to trust in your holy name and the promise of your unfailing love. In the darkness, help us to catch glimmers of your emerging Light, that our hearts may rejoice in hope and know peace. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION⁴ (Based on 1Thess. 5:16-24)

All: Comforting God, your Holy Word encourages us to "rejoice always." But we would rather sulk about things and look at life in a shadowed light. You tell us to "Pray without ceasing." but we go for days without even thinking about you. Scripture reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances." But our thankfulness is fleeting, because we think we deserve or have earned "blessings." You command us: "Hold fast to what is good," while instead, we choose to hold fast to sinful ways of thinking and acting. Forgive us, Holy One. Cleanse us from all unrighteousness and put us back on the path of obedience to The Way of Jesus. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS⁵

Pastor: With joy draw waters from the well of salvation!

Forgiveness is real!

Trust it and share it; forgive as you have been forgiven.

Jesus said: "There is joy in heaven over one sinner who repents."

All: Truly, God is our salvation we shall trust and not be afraid!

¹ Calvin Institute of Worship. The Worship Sourcebook. D.1.12. Advent: Opening of Worship. Grand Rapids: CPC Publications. 2004. Pg. 428-429. Rev. Baker heavily adapted this to coordinate with the Opening Hymn "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing."

² Public Domain. CCLI # 108389

³ Baker, Rev. Laura C. 2022

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Prewer, Bruce. *Confession: Recovering Joy* < <http://www.bruceprewer.com/> >

SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

Rev. Laura C. Baker

HYMN

*With Joy Draw Water*⁶

Bulletin, Page 4

HEBREW READING

Numbers 20:1-13

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:47-55

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Baker

SPECIAL MUSIC

Baby in a Manger (Williams/Nolan)

Chancel Choir

INSTALLATION OF LAY LEADERS

Pastor: Grace, mercy, and peace to you, from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

All: *To God be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Pastor: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

Congregation: **There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.**

Pastor: There are different abilities to perform, service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

Congregation: **The Spirit's Presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.**

Pastor: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

Congregation: **It is still one body, even though it is made up of different parts.**

Pastor: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it. If one part is praised, all the other parts share in the happiness.

Congregation: **All of us are Christ's body and each one is a part of it.**

PRESENTATION

Pastor: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with the responsibility for particular service in the ministry of the church, whether gathered or scattered. Having carefully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Individuals: **I am.**

Pastor: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Individuals: **I do, relying on God's grace.**

Pastor: Members of this congregation, you have heard the promises of our sisters and brothers in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able to do so comfortably, please rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

Congregation: **We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.**

⁶ McKinstry, Anne. Otis UCC, Massachusetts. New Century Hymnal #109. No Copyright information available.

PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, these people have heard your call to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit upon them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worth for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

DECLARATION

Pastor: In the name of Jesus Christ and on behalf of the people of Starview United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce that you are recognized, affirmed and installed in your respective positions.

All: Thanks be to God.

OFFERING INVITATION ⁷

Liturgist: Rejoice! Again, I say: Rejoice! God has done great things for us! In gratitude, let us bring our gifts to God this day and let us offer it off in joyful song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal, #551

OFFERTORY PRAYER ⁸

All: God of promises and joy, receive the gifts we return to you. Bless our tithes and offerings of time, talent and treasure. May they serve as signs of joy and hope for others in need. We pray through Christ who taught us to pray, saying: 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.

HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates⁹

Hymnal, #92

BENEDICTION PRAYER ¹⁰

Pastor: Blessed by Christ's presence, go forth in joy! Share the blessings of peace, hope, and love with all you meet. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST IS CARRIED INTO THE WORLD

Acolyte and All People

POSTLUDE

⁷Scifres, Mary J. (Adapted by Rev. Baker on November 28, 2022) < <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/11061/december-11-2022-third-sunday-of-advent> >

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Public Domain. CCLI# 1863214

¹⁰ Baker, Rev. Laura C. 2022.

With Joy Draw Water

109

Anne McKinstry, 1986, 1993

Isa. 11:1-10; 12:2-6

1 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.
2 A shoot has sprung from Jes - se's tree; of God the cho - sen One.
3 With love the poor will be re - ceived; the proud will turn a - side;
4 The wolf shall lie down with the lamb; the calf and li - on play.
5 With joy draw wa - ter from the spring; sal - va - tion's liv - ing well.

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it in the final measure of the first system.

The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!
A branch of knowl - edge and of truth; a gift of love has come!
And faith - ful - ness will be a path, and righ - teous - ness the guide!
God's peace shall dwell with - in the land; a child shall show the way!
The Ho - ly One is in your midst; glad prais - es sing and tell!

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features the same treble and bass clef staves. The melody concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots. The bass line also concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

This text combines images from two Advent readings from the book of Isaiah, including the passage anticipating the reign of peace. The author, Anne McKinstry, has served as a writer-in-residence at Otis United Church of Christ in Massachusetts.

Tune: ST. COLUMBA altered to 8.6.8.6.
Irish traditional melody
Harm. Charles V. Stanford, 1906