

**ORDER OF WORSHIP - DECEMBER 15, 2024**  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER**

Dr. John Hatton

**WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF JESUS**

**OPENING VOLUNTARY**

**In the Bleak Mid-Winter**  
arr. John Innes

Dr. James Humlong

**INTROIT**

**The King of Glory Comes**  
traditional Israeli folk song

Chancel Choir

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Rev. Joan Wooden

God comes! So don't let go  
of all the reasons to rejoice.

**We will sing a song of Advent  
to the One who fills our lives with joy.**

God comes! So don't stop  
lifting your prayers with thanksgiving.

**We will sing a song of Advent,  
to the One who hears our words and silence.**

God comes! So don't stop  
giving your hearts to God.

**We will sing a song of Advent  
to the One who graces us with a peace  
we cannot begin to understand.**

**\*HYMN 213**

**Lift Up Your Heads**

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand  
of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

\*GLORIA PATRI

UMH 70

CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION

Choir and Congregation

LITANY

The Simson Family (8:45)

The Nielsen Family (10:45)

When we think of the countless blessings that fill our lives

**Our hearts are filled with joy.**

For the warmth of relationships

and the bonds we share with family and friends

**Our hearts are filled with joy.**

When we pause to appreciate the beauty and wonder of nature

**Our hearts are filled with joy.**

For the giving and receiving of simple acts of kindness

**Our hearts are filled with joy.**

Advent's Holy Light  
Congregational Part

JOEL RANEY

*(on cue)*

Lord, we are wait - ing for peace to reign.

Lord, we are lis - tening for love's re - frain.

For hope, peace, and joy and love to u -

nite in the beau - ty and won - der of

Ad - vent's ho - ly light.

*(repeat this chorus after the candle lighting and litany)*

## CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

**Gracious Creator, teach us to find joy not only in triumphs but also in the simple moments of everyday grace. Fill us with joy that surpasses circumstance, anchored in the unchanging truth of your love. Help us share this joy with others and may joy and laughter be a constant companion on our journey through life. Amen.**

## ACT OF PRAISE

Children  
Pastor John Hatton, guitar

### **Away in a Manger**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Hannah James

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Chancel Choir

### **The Yearning**

Susan Bentall Boersma, text; Craig Courtney, music

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief  
and centuries of sorrow.

There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide  
and in the shades of death abide,  
a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One,  
the First-born of creation.

There is a yearning for the Lord who visited his own,  
and by his death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts a yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts  
of those who wait the day of his appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased  
and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel, within our hearts a yearning.

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## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dr. John Hatton

**O God, we look beyond ourselves,  
upon a world of false hopes and broken promises,  
and we are prone to lower our expectations.  
We look within ourselves,  
upon mixed motives and wounded hearts,  
and we are inclined to despair.**

And yet the good news is sure and worthy of full acceptance:  
your promise will be fulfilled;  
your covenant is everlasting;  
your words will not pass away.  
Draw near to us; fill us with hope;  
remind us that the day of the Lord is surely coming.

## SILENT PRAYER OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear the good news: God the Father has come near to us,  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior,  
through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.  
**Glory to God. Amen.**

## HYMN 204

### Emmanuel. Emmanuel

The Lord be with you.  
**And with thy spirit.**

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Dr. Bill Moore

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

## OFFERTORY

Bob Hooker, tenor

### Mary, Did You Know?

Mark Lowry; lyrics; Buddy Greene, music

## \*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

## \*PRAYER OF BLESSING

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Lynn Osborne

### Romans 8: 18-23 (NLT)

Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later. For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the

day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**MESSAGE**

Dr. John Hatton

**\*HYMN 251**

**Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Dr. James Humlong

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

arr. Diane Bish