

# *tidings of comfort and joy*

December 17, 2017  
Ten-thirty O'clock in the Morning

## THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind*

Greeting

Austin Carty

Organ Voluntary

*God Rest Ye Merry*  
Variations III, IV, & V

setting by David Lasky

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Alex Lockridge

*Why light a candle that will burn out?*

***The message of this candle cannot be quenched.***

***It speaks of joy –***

***joy as deep as the human soul,***

***joy as profound as the truth of scripture,***

***joy as rich as the promises of God.***

***It signifies the Advent joy of the heavenly host***

***heralding the newborn King.***

*In faith we light this candle of joy.*

+Hymn 127

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

+Prayer of Confession

Paul Sims

*Hear our prayer, O God, as we confess to You our sin:*

***We have failed to understand Your gift to us in Jesus Christ.***

***We take Your love for granted, claiming Your forgiveness, but continuing to sin.***

***We hoard Your blessings for ourselves and we overlook the needs of others.***

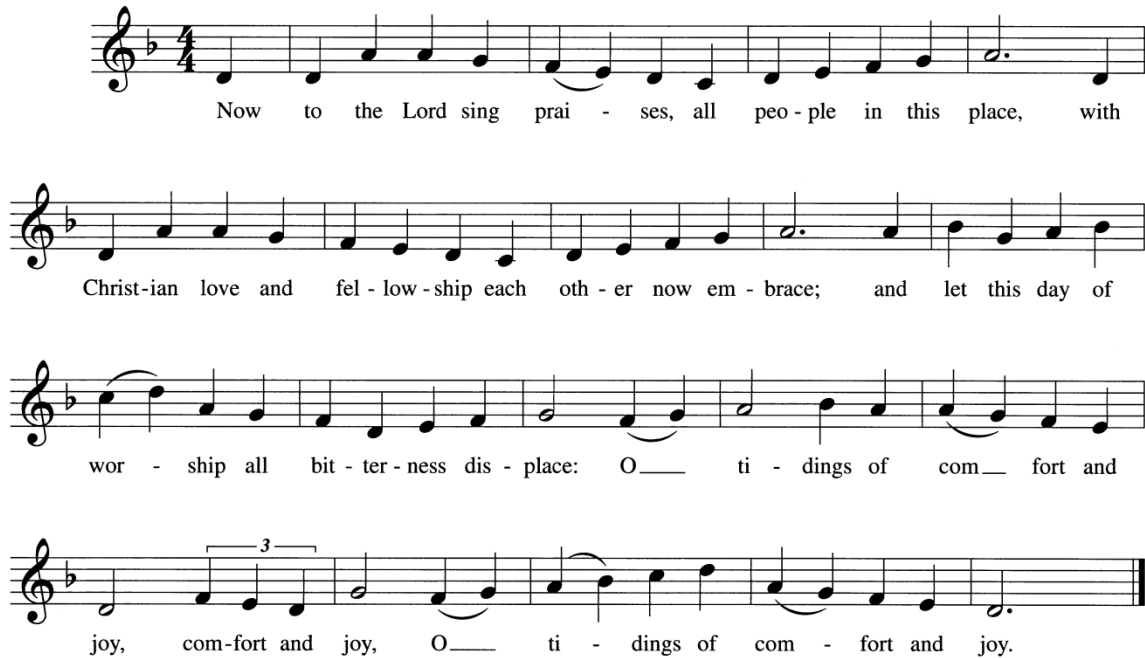
***We trust in our own strength instead of living by Yours.***

*Forgive us, loving Creator, and help us to claim new life in Christ Jesus.*

***By Your Spirit, lead us to live in Your service, sharing in word and deed  
the news of Your redeeming love. Amen.***

+Response

GOD REST YOU MERRY



Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all peo - ple in this place, with

Christ-ian love and fel - low - ship each oth - er now em - brace; and let this day of

wor - ship all bit - ter - ness dis - place: O — ti - dings of com — fort and

joy, com-fort and joy, O — ti - dings of com - fort and joy.

- 18<sup>th</sup> century English carol

*and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm, and wind*

Children's Sermon

Alex Lockridge

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*The word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

Psalm 126

setting by Hal Hopson



The Lord has done great things, and we are glad in - deed.

*When the Lord brought the captives home to Zion, it seemed like a dream;  
our mouths were filled with laughter, our lips sang songs of joy. **REFRAIN***

*The pagans then said among themselves, "What marvels we see."*

*The Lord has done great things, and we are glad indeed. **REFRAIN***

*O Lord bring the captives home again as streams in dry land.*

*Yes, they who sow in tears will reap with joyful hearts. **REFRAIN***

A Reading from the Epistles: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Austin Carty

*The word of the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

+Hymn 119

*His Name Is Called Emmanuel*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

A Reading from the Gospels: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Paul Sims

*The Gospel of our Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

Sermon

“One Whom You Do Not Know”

Austin Carty

*and went to Bethlehem straightway, the blessed babe to find*

+Hymn 102

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*

ANTIOCH

If you wish to present yourself for membership today, or if you have another decision to share, please come to the front of the sanctuary during the hymn and a minister will receive you. You are welcome here.

+Offertory Prayer

Sabrina Smith

Loose change received in December will benefit our church's Cold Weather Ministries.

Offertory Anthem

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

setting by Jane Marshall

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, come now to earth and with Thy people dwell.*

*The world awaits from heaven a holy sign, O come and show to us the light divine.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, as age to age the prophets did foretell;*

*Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Bethlehem's manger stall.*

*For Thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high,*

*Gracious Spirit, Lord most fair: now to us draw nigh.*

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and free Thy children, Israel.*

*Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us all with everlasting love.*

- Natalie Sleeth

Prayers of the People

Alex Lockridge

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

+Doxology for Advent

VENI EMMANUEL

*To You, O Christ, all glory be, whose advent sets Your people free;  
Whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore;  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O tidings of comfort and joy*

+The Peace

Austin Carty

*The peace of the Lord be with you.  
And also with you.*

+Sending Song

*When the Lord Redeems the Very Least*

I'LL FLY AWAY

When the Lord re - deems the ver - y least,  
When the Lord re - lives the world from death, we will re-joyce.  
When the Lord re - turns in vic - to - ry,  
When the hun - gry gath - er for the feast,  
When the word of God fills ev - ery breath, we will re-joyce.  
When we live in glo - rious lib - er - ty,  
We will re-joyce with glad - ness. We will re-joyce.  
All our days we'll sing to God in praise. We will re-joyce!

- Sylvia Dunstan

+Commission and Blessing

Austin Carty, Alex Lockridge, & Paul Sims

*... and may the Holy Spirit speak through you the good news of great joy. Amen.*

Organ Postlude

*God Rest Ye Merry*

setting by Richard Huggins

+all who are able may stand  
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Gayle Majors, Organist  
Ann Hacker, Pianist

James Ring , candle lighter