

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude and Chimes

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Advent Candle

Jo-Anne Fournier & Diane Wogaman

"Weeping may come for the night
But joy comes with the morning." Psalm 30:5b

And the Light
Was not, could not, will not be dimmed

On this third Sunday of Advent, we make a conscious decision to reclaim joy in our lives. Joy is a gift from God to all his beloved children. Joy is a sign of God's love and faithfulness to us.

We light the candle of joy, and we remember the children's song: "There is joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart today."

***Hymn #55:** "Rejoice, You Pure In Heart"

***Passing the Peace**

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4-7

Carla Crompton

Anthem: Come, Jesus, Prince of Peace by Diane Hannibal, arranged by Brad Nix

Time With Young Disciples

***Unison Prayer**

Holy One, as the memories of happiness sweep back into our minds, we delight in the Advent blessing of joy. Such blissfulness turns our spirits from the lengthened nights to God's Divine Light which will be arriving soon. Like the saints of yesteryear, we celebrate together, rejoicing in the season, and knowing the best is yet to come. Amen.

Sermon: "Counterintuitive Thinking"

***Hymn #109:** "With Joy Draw Water"

The Community at Prayer (*Joys and Concerns, Prayers for the People, Lord's Prayer*)

If you are watching online, type any prayer requests in the chat by the end of the sermon and we can voice them and get the names on the prayer list.

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.

Prayer Response

Invitation to the Offering

(Opportunities to give for the ministries of this church are available through an offering plate during service, by mailing your gift to the church office, or by signing up for electronic giving through our website at <https://www.greenbeltcommunitychurch.org/>)

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light,
We give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We
give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give
of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of
your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on
earth. Amen.**

***Hymn #128: "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

***Commissioning and Blessing**

***Choral Response**

***Postlude**