



We are a Bible-based, English-speaking, international, interdenominational, ecumenical, friendly and welcoming community.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

*13 December 2020 – Third Sunday of Advent – at 12 Noon
VCC Online Service*



WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Prelude

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent

Trio (recorded)

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly-minded,
for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
our full homage to demand.

2. Truly God, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
word of God, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful
his own self for heavenly food.

3. At his feet the six-winged seraph;
cherubim with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the Presence,
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
"Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, God most high!"

Prayer

VOICE: Last Sunday the candle of **peace** was lit. We light it and the candle of **hope** again as we remember that Christ will come again and bring to the world everlasting peace.

VOICE: The third candle of Advent is the Candle of **Joy**. It reminds of the joy that Mary felt when the angel Gabriel told her that a special child would be born to her; a child who would save and deliver his people.

VOICE: God wants us all to have joy. The angel who announced to the shepherds that Jesus had been born told them: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all people for to you is born this day, in the City of David, a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

VOICE: We light this candle to remember that Christ brings the promise of a new life; a life in which the blind receive sight, the lame walk, and the prisoners are set free. We light it to remember that He is the bringer of true and everlasting joy.

Advent Third Candle Lighting

Linda Bednar

- **#132 When God Is A Child**

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.

Refrain: When God is a child
there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first
and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.



VOICE: **LET US PRAY.** Loving God, we thank you for the joy you bring us. Help us prepare our hearts for this gift. Bless our worship. Help us to hear and to do your word. We ask it in the name of the one born in Bethlehem. Amen.

Greeting/Announcements

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

- **#121 Prepare The Way Of The Lord**

• All who are able please rise.

WE HEAR THE WORD

Scripture Readings

Linda Bednar

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (NIV)

The Year of the Lord's Favor

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,^[a]

2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

4 They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

8 "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and wrongdoing. In my faithfulness I will reward my people and make an everlasting covenant with them.

9 Their descendants will be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples. All who see them will acknowledge that they are a people the Lord has blessed."

10 I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness, as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations.

Footnotes: a) [Isaiah 61:1](#) Hebrew; Septuagint *the blind*

Responsive Psalm

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 (NIV)

16 Rejoice always,

17 pray continually,

18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

19 Do not quench the Spirit.

20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt

21 but test them all; hold on to what is good,

22 reject every kind of evil.

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

Sermon **Joy when Facing Jovless Times** **Rev. Dr. Neil Parker**

WE RESPOND IN THANKS AND PRAYER

Responsive Song

Holy, Holy, Holy

Chanda Rule (live)

"Holy, holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one
who comes in the name of the Lord.
Blessed, blessed,
Hosanna, Hosanna,
Hosanna in the highest!

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Doxology

Recorded

Announcements / Sharing

WE GO INTO GOD'S WORLD WITH BLESSING

- **#129 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates**

1. Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates:
behold, the King of glory waits!
The King of kings is drawing near,
The Saviour of the world is here.

2. Fling wide the portals of your heart;
make it a temple, set apart
from earthly use for heav'n's employ,
adorned with prayer and love and joy.

3. Redeemer, come! I open wide
my heart to you; here, Lord, abide!
Let me your inner presence feel;
your grace and love in me reveal.

- **Blessing / Commissioning**

- **#312 Amen**

- Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Tomasz Piętak