



The Chosen Advent Sermon Series:
"Great Joy"
December 14, 2025

Scan to check out our website.



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PRELUDE / COUNTDOWN

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME OF GUEST

PASSING THE PEACE

Rev. Kerry Foote

CALL TO WORSHIP / LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Liturgist

Reader: In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

Congregation: We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away" (Isaiah 35:10).

Reader: We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Sunshine in My Soul (v. 1-4)

CEL #747

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christmas Affirmation

Liturgist

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI

UMH #70

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 35:10 (NKJV)

Liturgist

¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing. With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor

CHILDREN'S PRAYER

Father, as we wait for the day when we celebrate the birth of our Savior, and as we wait for the day when he will come again, fill our hearts with the joy that only you can bring. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT

GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:8-15 (NKJV)

Liturgist

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.”

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

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

PRESENTATION OF PRAYERS AND PRAISE

Prayer cards are on the information table. If you have a prayer request that you would like to share with the congregation, please fill out a card and pass it toward the center aisle as we are singing the Hymn of Preparation. The pastor will collect them during the hymn and pray over cards at the chancel rail.

HYMN OF PREPARATION

I Come with Joy (v. 1-5)

UMH #617

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor

SERMON ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

Choir

SERMON

Title: The Chosen Advent Sermon Series

Theme: “Great Joy”

Dominant Thought: We've been given a joyful life to live; let's live it in a joyless world.

Pastor

RECEIVING OF TITHES AND SACRIFICES (Celebrating our Gifts)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of Advent joy, we bring our offerings with hearts open to your transformative call. In this season of anticipation, may our gifts help mend what is broken and share the promise of redemption. Empower us to live fully present, giving generously and acting justly. Let these offerings be seeds of hope and joy that will draw us closer to your kin-dom. Bless our giving, that it may reflect your love and bring light to our world. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings

UMH #95

*HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Joy to the World (v. 1-4)

UMH #246

*COMMISION / BENEDICTION

Rev. Kerry Foote

Advent invites each of us into a new way of living in a world to which the kingdom of God has come and is yet coming. Go, now, blessed with the gift of togetherness, for it is only in being truly present with God and one another that we live as followers of the coming Messiah...and all of God's Children said...Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Love and Fellowship

See screen

POSTLUDE

*The flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in loving memory of
Charles F. LaBounty, Paula's dad,
by Rick and Paula Davies*