

Trinity Presbyterian Church

www.trinitypresbyfairfield.org

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 2020

WELCOME

THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you!

PRELUDE *O How Joyfully (O Sanctissima) with Still, Still, Still; Austrian carols arr. Larry Shackley*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—Candle of Joy *Kerrie and Jay Olzak*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Once upon a time, there was a little girl who had a terrible day.

She left her lunch at home.

She skinned her knee on the playground, and no one wanted to sit with her on the bus.

As she sank into her mother's arms at the end of the day, her mother said,

"Honey, what was the best part of today?"

The little girl cried and said, "Nothing! The entire day was terrible."

So the mother got down on one knee, wiped away her tears and said,

"There is always some good. Sometimes we just really have to look for it."

The little girl looked up at her mom and said, "What is good about today?"

And the mother said, "For starters, you're here in my arms."

Friends, anytime we gather together to worship God, we are here in God's arms.

So may we recognize that gift, and in doing so, may we sow joy.

Let us worship Holy God.

OPENING HYMN #93

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of glory waits;

The King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!

Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart

From earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy.

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide.

Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

CALL TO CONFESSION

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

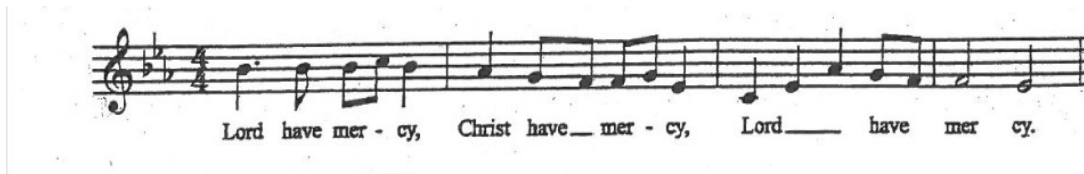
With the full realization that we have stumbled and fallen down, let us now pick ourselves up and come before the Lord knowing that we are acceptable and forgivable.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O Great God, With a sky full of stars and a world full of flowers, there should be no end to my joy. And yet, instead of decorating my very being with joy, I let it slip away like loose change. Instead of singing like Mary, I pass by remarkable beauty and love most days, unfazed. Forgive me. Teach me the ways of children, who laugh and dance and sing as if joy is the very thing that keeps them alive. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

Minute of Silent Personal Confession *Let us sing to the Lord...*

KYRIE—ALL SING



ASSURANCE OF PARDON

written by Rev. Tom Dunlap

If God did not forgive, we would all be doomed. But God's desire is for reconciliation. So trusting in God's mercy, let us thankfully accept the grace being extended to us. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

*O Come, All Ye Faithful; Away in a Manger; Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
The Trinity Bell Choir*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 61:1-4
Psalm 126

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Luke 1:46-55

SERMON

Sowing Joy

Rev. Tom Dunlap

MOMENT FOR REFLECTION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

HYMN #99

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God.
My heart pours out its praise.
God lifted up my lowliness
In many marvelous ways.

Love casts the mighty from their thrones,
promotes the insecure,
leaves hungry spirits satisfied;
the rich seem suddenly poor.

My God has done great things for me:
Yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed,
And blessings they shall claim.

Praise, God, whose loving covenant
supports those in distress,
remembering past promises
with present faithfulness

For age to age to all who fear,
such mercy love imparts,
dispensing justice far and near,
dismissing selfish hearts.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Great Creator,
We are in awe of you.
Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.
And because we are in awe of you,
We believe we must follow Mary's lead
And allow our souls to sing.
We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness
Is complete gratitude,
Which looks like love for our neighbor,
Justice for the poor,
Food for the hungry,
And joy that overflows.
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,
We believe that our song is pleasing to you.
In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CLOSING HYMN #82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Legends: I Saw Three Ships/The Seven Joys of Mary/
The Snow Lay on the Ground; English carols arr. Larry Shackley*

*Portion of today's liturgy are from Those Who Dream, Words for Worship for Advent-Epiphany, Year B,
"Adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are, A Sanctified Art LLC, sanctifiedart.org."*

Pastor

Rev. Tom Dunlap

Director of Music

Davis McKinney